

FY-2025 CDBG PRELIMINARY PUBLIC HEARING
Council Chambers, City Hall, Franklin, PA
July 7, 2025

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
James Johnson
Christian Marshall
Todd Zahner
Samuel Lyons
Ashley Smith

Members Excused: None

In Attendance: James Wetzel, City Manager
Harmony Motter, Deputy Manager
Cindi Power, City of Franklin
Kevin Saragian, Police Chief
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Amanda Power, City of Franklin
Brian Spaid, Solicitor
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Alex Spaid, Dale Woodard Gent McFate
Brady Slagle, City of Franklin
Bev Hart, 1333 Elk Street
Joseph Belick, Oil Region Rising
Barbara Matthews, 1239 Liberty Street
James Shreffler, FFAC
Sharlene Coxson and Richard Wheeler, 515 Sugarcreek Drive
Stephanie Felmlee, 313 13th Street
Irene McCabe, 1256 Elk Street
Tracy and Tom Jamieson, 1445 Elk Street
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Melissa Ditzenberger and Dave Ballard, 233 Overlook Drive
Devin Zerbe, FFAC Intern
Ken Bryan, Venango County Commissioner
Julie Lane, St. Pete
Jayme Felmlee, Speak Up Venango
Jessica Roess, Betty's Circle
Jennifer Taylor, 1526 Buffalo Street
Jodie Lewis, Franklin Chamber
Josh Jolley, Franklin Chamber
Matt Beith, representing Bronson Smith and Chris VanWinkle

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 P.M. and handed the floor to Mrs. Power to present the FY-2025 CDBG Preliminary Public Hearing.

Mrs. Power introduced the City's FY-2025 Community Development Block Grant Program. Public comment will be received by the Community Development Department until July 18, 2025. The City was granted \$305,575 in total funding for the fiscal year. After deducting 18% (\$55,000) for administration costs, there is an estimated \$250,575 remaining for projects.

She explained that all CDBG activities must benefit low-moderate income persons, prevent or eliminate slums and blight, or address an urgent threat or need, and that at least 70% of project funds must be used to benefit persons with low to moderate incomes, with no more than 30% used to eliminate slums or blight.

Mrs. Power reviewed the 2025 median household income limits for Venango County and noted a moderate increase. For area-wide projects, the majority of residents within a particular geography must be of low-to-moderate income. Appropriate survey data must be used to establish the LMI population of a particular geographic area. She indicated that the City as a whole does not meet the 51% LMI threshold and is therefore not eligible for city-wide benefit in this year's funding round.

Mrs. Power then went on to review the types of eligible and ineligible projects, and past CDBG-funded activities. She reviewed the City's Statement of Replacement for occupied or occupiable homes which requires any structure considered to be a low-moderate income dwelling lost to CDBG-funded demolition must be replaced within three (3) years, within the same jurisdiction and must be of the same size and capacity and remain a low-moderate income dwelling for ten (10) years.

The second and final hearing for the FY-2025 CDBG program is planned for October 6, 2025. Pending no adverse comments after the second public comment period ends, the proposed projects will be presented for Council's approval at its October meeting. The City's Community and Economic Development Department will receive questions, comments or suggested uses of funds.

There being no comments or questions from Council, the hearing was adjourned at 7:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



T.J. Parks,
Recording Secretary