

SOUTHSIDE TOMORROW
REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS
YEAR 6: 2026-2027

The Southside Tomorrow Steering Committee invites all South Bethlehem serving organizations, residents, and business owners to propose community-driven projects for implementation between July 1, 2026 and September 30, 2027. All projects should focus on improving the quality of life for South Bethlehem residents and should align with at least one of the three priority areas identified by the Southside Tomorrow master plan (listed below).

Southside Tomorrow's commitment to community-driven initiatives is reflected in our flexible funding approach. We welcome proposals from a diverse range of entities, including non-profit organizations, businesses, and individual community members. This flexibility aims to empower all stakeholders to actively participate in shaping the future of South Bethlehem. Whether you represent an established organization, a local business, or are a passionate resident with a transformative idea, we encourage you to submit proposals that align with our priority areas.

In addition, Southside Tomorrow recognizes the strength that collaboration brings to community initiatives. To amplify impact, we encourage potential applicants to reach out to discuss their projects. If you have a project idea and wish to explore potential partnerships or align with similar initiatives, we are here to connect you with like-minded individuals and organizations.

Completed proposal application forms should be submitted to Anna Smith and Sophie Sarnitsky by email (asmith@caclv.org and ssarnitsky@caclv.org) by **Friday, March 20, 2026** for review by one or more working committees.

All applicants are encouraged to discuss their projects with the appropriate working committees at their January and/or February meetings. Please reach out to Anna Smith at asmith@caclv.org or 610-807-9337 for meeting locations and/or virtual access to the meetings.

Housing

January 21 at 3 pm
February 25 at 3 pm

Communication + Connectivity

January 22 at 10 am
February 26 at 10 am

Public + Green Space

January 23 at 10 am
February 27 at 10 am

For assistance with writing a proposal or to discuss project ideas, please feel free to reach out to Anna Smith at asmith@caclv.org. Proposal writing assistance is available to any individual or organization that needs it.

About Southside Tomorrow

Southside Tomorrow is a six-year neighborhood revitalization program administered by Community Action Development Bethlehem in partnership with the City of Bethlehem, supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and with funding from Univest Bank & Trust Co., Embassy Bank for the Lehigh Valley, People's Security Bank and Trust, PPL Electric Utilities, and Provident Bank.

The Southside Tomorrow Master Plan 2021-2027 establishes goals and strategies to guide implementation of projects, which are selected and supervised by a Steering Committee comprised of community stakeholders and neighborhood residents, local government, small business owners, corporate contributors to the NPP, and local non-profits.

Through a comprehensive public input process, *Southside Tomorrow* identified three interconnected areas in which to invest resources and support collaborative projects: Housing Affordability and Quality, Public and Green Spaces, and Communication and Connectivity. Please note that the Steering Committee has identified Housing Affordability and Quality as the highest priority area for 2026-2027; therefore, projects in this category will receive additional points in the proposal review process.

Southside Tomorrow Priority Areas

Housing Affordability and Quality

Goal: South Bethlehem will have a variety of quality, affordable renter- and owner-occupied housing options and encourage development that meets the needs and wants of current and new residents, alike.

Strategies

1. Provide opportunities to engage and empower the community to have a choice in the decisions regarding new development and accessibility of affordable housing.
2. Provide opportunities for mixed-use, adaptive reuse development to increase quality, affordable rental-housing.
3. Provide opportunities for adaptive reuse development and rehabilitation to increase and maintain quality, affordable owner-occupied housing.
4. Invest in data collection initiatives that expand an understanding of how past, present, and future development in south Bethlehem impact its residents.

Public and Green Spaces

Goal: Preserve the integrity of existing public and green spaces while investing in practical and creative utilization of those spaces to foster community engagement while addressing community concerns.

Strategies

1. Implement neighborhood programs to connect residents with opportunities that build a sense of creative placemaking and community pride with communal spaces.
2. Utilize green spaces to address concerns of food insecurity and neighborhood access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

3. Address community concerns for youth engagement by expanding opportunities that connect youth with public/green spaces.
4. Invest in community image by improving upon venues for cleanliness and appearance.

Communication and Connectivity

Goal: Build a sense of collective community identity through modernized initiatives that enhance residents' belonging, pride, and fellowship.

Strategies

1. Create, maintain, and build on existing initiatives that enhance community connectivity and unification.
2. Foster neighborhood connectedness through community building events and celebratory gatherings.
3. Continue and enhance community input process to further garner ongoing community feedback.

INFORMATION FOR SOUTHSIDE TOMORROW SUBGRANTEES

AGREEMENTS FOR 2026-2027

Agreements for 2026-2027 programs will be sent out once projects are approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (anticipated date: Fall 2026).

FLYERS AND OTHER PRINTED MATERIALS

As you are preparing flyers or other printed or online materials for your program(s) please to be sure to recognize the financial support of Southside's Tomorrow by using the following:

This program was made possible in part by Southside's Tomorrow, a 6-year revitalization program of Community Action Development Bethlehem and the City of Bethlehem, with support from Univest Bank & Trust Co., Embassy Bank for the Lehigh Valley, People's Security Bank and Trust, PPL Electric Utilities, and Provident Bank.

DATA COLLECTION

Subgrantees must collect data on the residency of any program participants and report on the total number of Southside residents served by programming. Subgrantees should also collect photo release forms for any program participants photographed during program activities (forms are available for use).

FINAL REPORT

A report will be due by November 15, 2027. Please send it to both Anna Smith and Sophie Sarnitsky (asmith@caclv.org and ssarnitsky@caclv.org). The report will require:

1. Number of Southside residents served
2. Digital photos (and copies of the photo releases)
3. A short narrative detailing the program's successes and any challenges that were faced.