



HOUSE BILL 1224
Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
February 27, 2024

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna urges this committee to vote a favorable report for **HB 1224 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding**

HB 1224 creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund, which was created in 2018. The funding is critical operating dollars for community-based organizations to use for affordable housing, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, housing and financial counseling, small business development, community services, and more.

We are seeking \$5 million from the Unclaimed Property Fund after usual disbursements have been made.

Raising funding for operations is extremely difficult. Donors and grantors want their contributions to go toward our programs' beneficiaries, not operations. However, the programs require qualified people to administer them. A lack of working capital threatens our ability to meet and sustain basic operational needs and stunts our ability to grow to serve more families. With additional funding for our administrative costs, we can maintain our office, and hire and retain the staff necessary to make more of an impact on our communities.

Please vote a favorable report for HB1224.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Yvonne Golczewski".

Yvonne Golczewski, Executive Director
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