

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE BILL

No. 948 Session of  
2023

---

INTRODUCED BY CEPHAS, HARRIS, KINSEY, MADDEN, RABB, PROBST,  
HOHENSTEIN, SOLOMON, SCHLOSSBERG, KHAN, SANCHEZ, DELLOSO,  
HILL-EVANS, PARKER, FIEDLER, BURGOS, BULLOCK, CIRESI,  
KRAJEWSKI, OTTEN AND GREEN, APRIL 17, 2023

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, APRIL 17, 2023

---

AN ACT

1 Providing for neighborhood infrastructure repair program and for  
2 eligibility for financial assistance under neighborhood  
3 infrastructure repair program; establishing the Municipal  
4 Neighborhood Infrastructure Grant Program; providing for  
5 duties of Department of Community and Economic Development;  
6 and making an appropriation.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Neighborhood  
11 Infrastructure Repair Act.

12 Section 2. Definitions.

13 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
14 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
15 context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic  
17 Development of the Commonwealth.

18 "Neighborhood infrastructure project." A project to repair,  
19 replace or provide maintenance to any sidewalk, alleyway or

1 other pathway within a municipality which is located on private  
2 property and accessible to the public, including the maintenance  
3 of trees or other encroaching vegetation.

4 "Neighborhood infrastructure repair program." A neighborhood  
5 infrastructure repair program established under section 3.

6 Section 3. Neighborhood infrastructure repair program.

7 A municipality may establish a neighborhood infrastructure  
8 repair program to provide financial assistance for neighborhood  
9 infrastructure projects. Upon establishing the neighborhood  
10 infrastructure repair program, the department shall provide  
11 matching funds to the municipality for the neighborhood  
12 infrastructure repair program in accordance with section 5. The  
13 municipality may complete a neighborhood infrastructure project  
14 or hire a third-party contractor to complete the neighborhood  
15 infrastructure project under the neighborhood infrastructure  
16 repair program.

17 Section 4. Eligibility for financial assistance under  
18 neighborhood infrastructure repair program.

19 (a) Applications.--Upon submission of an application as  
20 specified by the municipality, an individual may be eligible  
21 for financial assistance for a neighborhood infrastructure  
22 project under a neighborhood infrastructure repair program, as  
23 follows:

24 (1) If the applicant's household income is less than  
25 150% of the Federal poverty guidelines, upon receipt of proof  
26 of the household requirement under this paragraph, the  
27 municipality shall cover 100% of the total cost of the  
28 neighborhood infrastructure repair program.

29 (2) If the applicant's household income is greater than  
30 150% of the Federal poverty guidelines, the municipality

1 shall cover 100% of the total cost of the neighborhood  
2 infrastructure repair program by adding the total cost of the  
3 neighborhood infrastructure repair project to the amount of  
4 real property tax due on the applicant's homestead, interest  
5 free, for a 15-year amortization period beginning after the  
6 completion of the neighborhood infrastructure repair project.  
7 The following shall apply:

8 (i) If the applicant offers the applicant's  
9 homestead for sale within the 15-year amortization  
10 period, the applicant shall notify a potential buyer of  
11 the increased amount of real property tax due on the  
12 homestead for which the potential buyer will be liable  
13 upon the purchase of the homestead.

14 (ii) The applicant may pay off the remaining balance  
15 due on a neighborhood infrastructure repair project at  
16 any time during the 15-year amortization period without  
17 penalty.

18 (b) Multiple applicants.--For a neighborhood infrastructure  
19 repair project owned by multiple individuals, only one  
20 individual shall be required to submit an application under  
21 subsection (a). Upon receipt of an application under subsection  
22 (a) by one individual representing multiple applicants, the  
23 municipality shall conduct an election among the applicants to  
24 determine the financial responsibility for the neighborhood  
25 infrastructure repair project. If 51% of the applicants agree on  
26 the municipality's assessment of the financial responsibility  
27 for the neighborhood infrastructure repair project, the  
28 municipality shall proceed to assess the financial  
29 responsibility in accordance with subsection (a).

30 Section 5. Municipal Neighborhood Infrastructure Grant Program.

1 (a) Establishment.--The Municipal Neighborhood  
2 Infrastructure Grant Program is established within the  
3 department for the purpose of providing matching funds to a  
4 municipality that establishes a neighborhood infrastructure  
5 repair program. The department shall create an application  
6 process for a municipality to participate in the Municipal  
7 Neighborhood Infrastructure Grant Program, which may include the  
8 following information:

9 (1) The number of projected neighborhood infrastructure  
10 projects to be completed.

11 (2) The number of neighborhood infrastructure projects  
12 eligible for financial assistance under section 4.

13 (3) Any other information deemed necessary by the  
14 department.

15 (b) Maximum grant award.--The department may not award a  
16 grant to a municipality under the Municipal Neighborhood  
17 Infrastructure Grant Program in excess of \$5,000,000.

18 Section 6. Appropriation.

19 The amount of \$100,000,000 is appropriated to the department  
20 for the administration of the Municipal Neighborhood  
21 Infrastructure Grant Program under section 5.

22 Section 7. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect in 60 days.