

AGENDA

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF GENEVA, NEW YORK

May 28, 2025

**City Hall
47 Castle Street
2nd Floor Conference Room
Geneva, NY 14456**

COUNCIL MEETING STARTS AT 5:30 PM

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- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Steve Valentino
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. DISCUSSION – 2026 Budget Target Setting
- V. RESOLUTION – Opposing the Proposed FY26 Budget for Housing and Urban Development
- VI. RESOLUTION – Supporting a Public Hearing for CDBG Business Expansion and Start-Up (BEST) Program
- VII. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT



Geneva City Council Agenda Item Briefing

To: Geneva City Council

From: Amie Hendrix, City Manager

Meeting Date: May 28, 2025

Item Title: Resolution Opposing the Proposed FY26 Budget for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Action Required:

If approved this resolution opposes eliminating critical funding for the CDBG funding, and will be shared with the President of the United States, the US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and members of New York's Congressional delegation.

Background:

Eliminating or reducing this funding would devastate the ability of local leaders to revitalize residential blocks and commercial corridors. It would also undermine decades of bipartisan efforts to empower local governments to meet unique needs of their communities.

Alternatives:

Council can choose not to oppose eliminating CDBG funding

Financial Impact:

Geneva City Council

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RESOLUTION # 31-2025
OPPOSING THE PROPOSED FY26 BUDGET FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva, like many small cities across New York State, relies on federal housing and community development programs to support working families, revitalize neighborhoods, and build a stronger future for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would eliminate or significantly reduce funding for key programs that are essential to the City of Geneva's ability to meet local needs; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is one of the most effective and flexible federal tools available to municipalities, allowing the City of Geneva to invest in economic development, youth programs, infrastructure improvements, blight removal, and critically needed housing initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the elimination or reduction of CDBG funding would severely impair the City's capacity to continue revitalizing its residential neighborhoods and commercial districts, delay infrastructure upgrades, and hurt Geneva's working families and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program plays a vital role in addressing Geneva's affordable housing needs by enabling the City and its development partners to leverage low-income housing tax credits and state resources to expand access to quality housing; and

WHEREAS, proposed cuts to these programs would undermine decades of bipartisan efforts to empower local governments, while further exacerbating housing instability and economic inequality in cities like Geneva; and

WHEREAS, investing in cities and villages like Geneva is essential to creating opportunity, growing local economies, and improving quality of life for residents of all ages and backgrounds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geneva City Council strongly opposes the proposed FY26 HUD budget and urges Congress to reject the elimination or reduction of CDBG and HOME program funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Geneva calls upon federal lawmakers to work in partnership with local governments to preserve and expand the federal programs that are fundamental to housing stability, infrastructure renewal, and equitable economic development in our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the members of New York's Congressional delegation.



Geneva City Council
Agenda Item Briefing

To: Geneva City Council

From: Jennifer Sutton, Grant Coordinator

Meeting Date: 5/28/2025

Item Title: Schedule Public Hearing of CDBG BEST Program Grant Application

Action Required:

Schedule a Public Hearing for a grant application through the New York State Office of Community Renewal for Community Development Block Grant funding's Business Expansion and Start-up (BEST) Program.

Background:

The BEST program is the new/renamed version of the Microenterprise Assistance Program (MAP) that the City has successfully administered multiple times in the recent past and is currently in the final months of the most recent awarded program. This new application would bring additional opportunities to interested individuals for opening a new business or expanding their current business. The NYS CDBG BEST Program funding can help the City of Geneva provide a program of financial assistance to for - profit businesses with five (5) or fewer employees, including the owner(s), for an identified CDBG eligible activity which will result in the creation or retention of permanent, private sector job opportunities, principally for persons from low-moderate income families.

Alternatives:

Without a public hearing this application cannot be submitted.

Financial Impact:

Pursuing this application and administering the grant if awarded will require City staff time. If awarded, the grant will include funding for managing the funding and compliance of the grant that should cover all our ongoing staff costs; the only cost is the upfront work on the hearing and grant submittal. The City Grant Coordinator will expend time and effort completing the application process. This effort would be covered within current staffing levels.

Geneva City Council

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Resolution # 32-2025
Supporting a Public Hearing

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva is currently implementing a Microenterprise Assistance Program (MAP), and

WHEREAS, the current and prior programs have been beneficial to the City of Geneva and its residents, and

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to seek new funding for these services under the CDBG Business Expansion and Start-up (BEST) program, and

WHEREAS, the program requires a public hearing to discuss community needs and seek support for the City's application to this program, and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that this project is a priority activity that is contributing to the renewal of the downtown area, strengthening the local economy, and increasing the quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS, this project is consistent with all existing local plans, the project facilitates effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both economic development and preservation of community resources, and the project supports local businesses in a manner that will attract, create, and sustain employment opportunities in Geneva; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council schedules a public hearing for June 4, 2025 at 7pm in the City Hall Council Chamber for the purpose of hearing public comments on the City of Geneva's potential application to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) BEST program, the City's economic and community development needs, and Council directs City staff to take all necessary action to provide proper notice of the public hearing.