



Mayor & Council of Berlin

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www.berlinmd.gov

June 26, 2025

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David Gaskill

Town Administrator
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Mr. Tony Redman
Director, Project Review Division
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes S580 Taylor Avenue
State Office Building, B-3
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Redman:

This letter is to provide your department with the environmental screening information in accordance with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development environmental assessment requirements.

The Town of Berlin has been awarded \$297,449 in funding from the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) to assist with the elimination of slum and blight on a spot basis at 130 Flower Street for the demolition of the dilapidated multi-purpose building (Grant Number: MD-25-CD-8).

Attached is a map and description of the project area for your review. If you have any questions during the review process, please contact me at 401-641-3858.

Respectfully,

Mayor Zack

Zack Tyndall MBA, NRP
Mayor, Town of Berlin





Community Development Block Grant

Project Description

MD-25-CD-8

Elimination of Slum and Blight, Spot Basis

The Town of Berlin is seeking funds for the demolition of the Multi-Purpose Building, a 50 x 110 foot building adjacent to the Head Start on 130 Flower Street, Berlin, MD 21811, which has fallen into disrepair and is a source of slum and blight on Flower Street. The location is adjacent to Berlin's current Head Start program and across the street from a playground and basketball courts (Henry Park) frequented by families and children.

Once used by the community for gatherings, weddings, reunions, etc. the building has been abandoned and has tested positive for lead paint and asbestos with severe roof damage done throughout the winter storms of 2025. The building is showing signs of trespassing due to broken doors and it is possible that people seeking shelter are using it for habitation, however, infestation of animals, insects, and the compromised roof make this an incredibly dangerous enterprise.

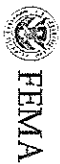
The current property and facility were acquired by the Berlin Community Improvement Association (BCIA) in 1971 from the Worcester County Commissioners through a series of real estate transactions to consolidate various parcels of land into one larger area. After which, the BCIA began to own and operate the facilities formerly known as the Flower Street School—one of Worcester County's segregated schools for Black children in Berlin - which were already dated from initial use in the 1940's, but still in decent condition.

The facilities and location soon attracted the attention of the Community Action Agency SHORE UP! Inc. While SHORE UP! Inc. has a number of programs in operation designed to assist low-income families, Early Head Start and Head Start are the largest programs within the agency respectively. SHORE UP! was able to create agreements for space and use of the facilities for operation of the Head Start program.

However, the facilities were aging and therefore in constant need of repair over time. SHORE UP! often aided with repairs of the facilities to ensure compliance with the funding source and licensing agencies. Nonetheless, as time continued to pass, the facilities have depreciated tremendously. Specifically, the multipurpose community center had fallen into a state of disrepair during the pandemic. As the aging facility was not used and severe weather played a role in further deteriorating and compromising the structure, there is nothing left to but demolish the building to eliminate slum and blight in order to make the area safe for the children and families who are frequently using the Head Start program next door and the park, playground, and basketball courts across the street. A major concern is dangerous trespassing by children or individuals who could be hurt by the wasps, crumbling walls, and caving roof, in addition to the asbestos and lead present on site.

The project of demolishing the multi-purpose building will include the removal of a 1,000 gallon heating oil tank; the building demolition and hazardous material removal, including lead paint and asbestos, ground surface restoration with erosion and sediment control as well as any utility capping needed.

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



73°12'48"W 38°19'46"N



Legend

SEE THIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAND USE

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

- Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE)
Zone A, V, AE9
- With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
- Regulatory Floodway

OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD

- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Area of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile (Zone X)
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X
- Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levees, See Notes, Zone X
- Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D

OTHER AREAS

- NO SCREEN
- Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
- Effective LOMRs
- Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone

GENERAL STRUCTURES

- Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
- Levee, Dike, or Floodwall

OTHER FEATURES

- 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance
- 17.5 Water Surface Elevation
- 8 Coastal Transect
- Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
- Limit of Study
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Coastal Transect Baseline
- Profile Baseline
- Hydrographic Feature

MAP PANELS

- Digital Data Available
- No Digital Data Available
- Unmapped

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards. The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 5/6/2024 at 10:14 AM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.