



The Community Development Block Grant Program - Fact Sheet

Basic Program Components

- The CDBG Program is authorized by Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The funds are a block grant that can be used to address critical and unmet community needs including those for housing rehabilitation, public facilities, infrastructure, economic development, public services, and more.
- Primary objective is to develop viable urban and rural communities, by expanding economic opportunities and improving the quality of life, principally for persons of low and moderate income.
- Since 1974, it has invested \$144 Billion in communities nationwide.
- Appropriation level has varied over the 40 year program history – (3.10 B for FY 2014).
- Individual Community determines the need and use of funds.
- Each year approximately 95% of funds are invested in activities that primarily benefit low and moderate income persons.
- For FY 2014 there are 1220 grantees including cities, counties, states, and insular areas, and non-entitlement counties in Hawaii. However, potential reach is to every community either directly or indirectly—more than 7,250 local governments have access to funding.
- CDBG is an important catalyst for economic growth- helping local officials leverage funds for community needs.

2013 CDBG Program Accomplishments

- Nearly 28,000 Americans found new permanent jobs or were able to retain their jobs at businesses supported by CDBG economic development activities;
- More than 94,300 housing units received some level of housing rehabilitation assistance;
- More than 7,250 local governments, including more than 2,500 rural communities, participated in CDBG through the entitlement, urban county, or state programs; and

- More than 9.8 million people live in areas which benefited from CDBG-funded public service activities and almost 3.3 million live in areas which benefited from CDBG-financed public improvements.

Historic Program Outcomes by Category

Job Creation and Retention

- From fiscal year 2004-2013, CDBG economic development activities have directly created or retained more than 421,183 permanent jobs.
- Between fiscal years 2007-2013 CDBG helped more than 232,000 businesses expand economic opportunities for our country's most vulnerable citizens.

Public Facilities and Public Services

- CDBG grantees historically expend one-third of their funds annually on public improvements.
- CDBG has improved public facilities that benefitted more than 33.7 million people between fiscal years 2005 and 2013. These improvements assist in providing the critical elements for suitable physical environments including sanitary water and sewer systems, safe streets and transit-ways, improved drainage systems, and other improvements that support our communities and help grow local economies.
- Up to 15 percent of CDBG funds can also be used by local governments on important public services. These investments assist the most vulnerable populations in a community, including children, the homeless, and victims of domestic violence. For low- and moderate-income families, these are life-changing services.

Housing Activities

- Grantees historically spend approximately one quarter of their CDBG funds for housing activities, with the most significant activity being owner-occupied rehabilitation.
- From fiscal year 2004-2013 more than 1.3 million homes have been rehabilitated for low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters
- In fiscal year 2013, more than 94,000 households received housing assistance, ranging from minor emergency housing repairs enabling elderly and infirm residents to remain in their own homes to weatherization improvements that result in more affordable energy bills.