



# ABOUT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

The CDBG program is a flexible program that provides communities with funding to address a wide range of community development needs. Authorized in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD. The CDBG program gives annual grants on a formula basis to over 1,200 units of general local government, insular areas and States.

The CDBG Program is authorized by Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Communities can use these funds to address critical and unmet community needs including those for housing rehabilitation, public facilities, infrastructure, job creation, public services, and more. The CDBG program has made a difference in the lives of millions of people and their communities across the Nation.

Citizen Participation is a key element of the CDBG program. Citizens are given the opportunity to attend public hearings, to review proposed activities, and provide input. At least 70% of the CDBG funds must be used to benefit low- and moderate-income individuals. Each funded activity must meet one of three national objectives: 1) benefits low- and moderate-income individuals, 2) aids in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or 3) addresses an urgent need that poses a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community which occurred within the last 18 months and for which other funding is not available.

- ★ More than 9.8 million people live in areas which benefit from CDBG-funded public service activities and almost 3.3 million live in areas which benefit from CDBG-financed public improvements.
- ★ Approximately 95% of funds are invested in activities that primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

## LEVERAGE FOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT



Between FY2010 and FY2012, for every dollar of CDBG funds spent, **\$4 in other public and private funds** were leveraged.

## CDBG SPENDING BY ACTIVITY, FY2001–FY2013



## Core Principles

### *Benefiting low- and moderate-income persons and communities:*

The CDBG program works to address a range of community needs. Funds are targeted to assist low- and moderate-income persons and families with the intent of filling gaps in funding.

*Local decision-making & flexible use of funds:* By design, the CDBG program empowers local communities to make decisions about how best to address their own needs. Funds may be used for a wide range of activities, allowing grantees to tailor their community development strategies to local circumstances.

*Community participation:* Through the citizen participation process, community members and stakeholders take part in decision-making. The program builds in opportunities for community and beneficiary input, including public hearings, reviewing program performance and allowing for written feedback.

*Leveraging & partners:* Working with partners is critical to the success of most CDBG program activities. Not only do partners often bring financial resources to the table, they also bring expertise and perspective about how to make programs work. CDBG's flexibility allows grantees to use it as a resource to leverage other funds. For example, between FY10 to FY12 for every dollar of CDBG, grantees leveraged \$4 in other funds.

### *Strategic & targeted investment:*

It has become more and more important for grantees to think about creative and innovative ways to extend the reach of their CDBG funds. Linking CDBG activities to other private and public resources compounds the impact of CDBG investments.

## CDBG's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

HUD, community development professionals, and beneficiaries nationwide celebrate the 40th anniversary of the CDBG program in 2014. While the CDBG program's accomplishments have been vast, community need often outweighs the funding available making it critical for grantees to use these funds strategically. HUD has produced a series of online videos and a multimedia scrapbook designed to share best practices and help grantees and others learn about the CDBG program and inspire new approaches to using the funds.

## Online Products

[The Role of the CDBG Program in Creating a Viable Community \(video\)](#)

[The Role of the CDBG Program in Creating Decent Housing \(video\)](#)

[The Role of the CDBG Program in Creating a Suitable Living Environment \(video\)](#)

[How Communities Can Use CDBG to Create Economic Opportunities \(video\)](#)

[How CDBG Benefits Low- and Moderate-Income Persons \(multimedia scrapbook\)](#)

## CDBG Success Stories

Browse our [project profiles](#) to see how communities are using CDBG funds.

## WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please share your CDBG success story on Twitter at [#CDBGturns40](#), or email it to [CDBGturns40@hud.gov](mailto:CDBGturns40@hud.gov).