

The **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program** is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. Beginning in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD. The CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to 1225 general units of local government and States. The program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

Entitlement communities develop their own programs and funding priorities. However, grantees must give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low- and moderate-income persons. A grantee may also carry out activities which aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. Additionally, grantees may fund activities when the grantee certifies that the activities meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. CDBG funds may not be used for activities which do not meet these broad national objectives.

Eligible Activities

Over a 1, 2, or 3-year period, as selected by the grantee, not less than 70 percent of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons. In addition, each activity must meet one of the following national objectives for the program: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.

CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

CDBG funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of Real Property
- Disposition
- Public Facilities and Improvements
- Clearance
- Public Services
- Interim Assistance
- Relocation
- Loss of Rental Income
- Privately-Owned Utilities
- Rehabilitation
- Construction of Housing
- Code Enforcement
- Special Economic Development Activities
- Microenterprise Assistance
- Special Activities by CBDOs
- Homeownership Assistance
- Planning and Capacity Building
- Program Administration Costs
- Miscellaneous Other Activities

Ineligible Activities

Generally, the following types of activities are ineligible:

- acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of buildings for the general conduct of government;
- political activities;
- certain income payments; and
- construction of new housing by units of general local government.

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. Guide to National Objectives & Eligible Activities for Entitlement Communities.

