

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

April 9, 2024

Proclaiming and Celebrating April as Community Development Month in Los

Angeles County

For the past 50 years, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program has long been considered the most successful federally supported local Program ever approved by Congress. The CDBG Program gives State, City, and County governments the flexibility to target CDBG funds to locally determined priority needs, primarily to benefit low- and moderate-income residents, and to help eliminate slums and blight. The County of Los Angeles (County), through the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), administers the largest CDBG Urban County Program in the nation, encompassing the unincorporated County areas and 48 participating cities.

The Community Development Block Grant Coalition has declared April 1st through 5th as “National Community Development Week,” but the fact that this year, 2024, is the 50th anniversary requires a more substantive recognition of the benefits of the CDBG program to the County.

On this 50th Anniversary, the Board of Supervisors shall declare the month of April 2024, as Community Development Month, to recognize the singular role the CDBG

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Program has had, and will continue to have, in the development of neighborhoods and communities, and recognize the importance of community-based organizations, County Departments, and participating cities in the lives of low- and moderate- income residents in all the communities of the County of Los Angeles.

CDBG funds provide services to youth and seniors, persons that are experiencing homelessness, persons with HIV/AIDS, and persons with special needs. Strong partnerships among County Departments, participating cities, Community-Based Organizations, and other Public Agencies have helped ensure the quality and effectiveness of the CDBG Program within the County.

For example, during the past fiscal year, the CDBG Program served 75,812 persons who were homeless and/or living with HIV/AIDS. It also served 1,577,524 persons through code enforcement quality-of-life programs, improved 2,892 housing units through housing rehabilitation, offered economic development financial and technical assistance to 179 businesses and created or retained 430 full-time equivalent jobs, and constructed or improved 314 public, senior, youth or special needs facilities. Through 50 agencies and 48 participating cities, the County also provided public services to 322,639 persons, supportive services to 5,739 seniors, and services and activities for 1,201 youth and children.

The Los Angeles Urban County CDBG Program substantially exceeded the Federal requirement to expend 70% of its funds for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons. In the past fiscal year, the CDBG Program expended a total of \$30.5 million; of which more than 99% of qualified expenditures benefited low- and moderate-income persons.

Within fiscal years 2018 through 2023, the County expended over \$135 million in CDBG funds, but it was also able to leverage an additional \$507 million in expenditures from other public and private sources during the same period. In summary, for every \$1 in CDBG funds expended, an additional \$3.73 in leverage funds was spent.

It is vital that the CDBG Program remain to provide funding for revitalization of local infrastructure, public services, housing rehabilitation, neighborhood development, and supportive services for low-and moderate-income communities.

Prior to the 1990 enactment of the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, there were few options available to communities to develop affordable housing. Families lived in overcrowded and unsafe housing, and working families struggled to save enough for a down payment. Communities lacked the resources needed to design large-scale affordable housing programs to address these problems. The HOME Program was developed to provide resources to communities to provide decent, safe, and affordable housing opportunities for low-income persons. HOME Program funding has been used nationally to complete over 1.7 million units of affordable housing.

Despite significant reductions to this valuable resource, Los Angeles County has used its HOME Program funds with great success to finance innovative housing programs and projects for low-income families, including the construction of affordable housing, the rehabilitation of existing housing, and the down payment assistance for eligible first-time homebuyers. Since the HOME Program's inception in 1992, the County has overseen the administration of over \$340.8 million in HOME funds into the County's housing market. The HOME Program's added benefit is its ability to

leverage local funding. The total leveraging ratio for its rental projects is approximately 5.4 times, for a total of over \$1.10 billion made available for local housing since 1992.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors Proclaim April 2024 as Community Development Month in the County of Los Angeles to recognize the accomplishments of the past 50 years of the Community Development Block Grant Program in the County of Los Angeles through local communities, neighborhoods, and the lives of low- and moderate-income residents with a variety of economic development, public service, recreation, and housing rehabilitation programs.

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Proclamation
In Recognition of Community Development Month and 50 Years of the Community
Development Block Grant Program

April 2024

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles represents one of the most diverse jurisdictions in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles, through the Los Angeles County Development Authority, administers the largest Urban County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program in the nation with 48 participating cities; and

WHEREAS, 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the CDBG Program; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG Program has operated since 1974 to provide local governments with the resources required to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income persons; eliminate slums and blight; address emergent needs; and has provided CDBG funds to many neighborhood-based, non-profit organizations throughout Los Angeles County to address pressing neighborhood and human service needs; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG Program has had a significant impact on Los Angeles County's local economy through job creation and retention, physical development, and improvement of the tax base; and

WHEREAS, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) has allowed the County of Los Angeles to finance innovative programs and projects for low-income families, including the construction of affordable housing, the rehabilitation of existing housing, and down payment assistance for eligible first-time homebuyers, with great success; and

THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims April 2024, as National Community Development Month, to recognize of the 50th Anniversary of the Community Development Block Grant Program and its impact on the citizens of the County of Los Angeles; and resolves to continue to support funding for the CDBG and HOME Programs.