

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

APRIL 15, 2025

PROCLAIMING NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK- APRIL 21 - 25, 2025

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, enacted in 1974, 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 47 participating cities.

This year, 2025, marks the 51st anniversary of the CDBG Program. Since its inception, the CDBG Program has consistently assisted low- and moderate-income residents of the County through a variety of economic development, public service, recreation, and housing rehabilitation programs. CDBG funds provide services to youth and seniors, persons that are experiencing homelessness, 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 101,672 persons who were homeless, as well as 801,212 persons through code enforcement programs, improved 912 housing units through housing rehabilitation, offered economic development financial and technical assistance to 214 businesses and created or retained 161 full-time equivalent jobs, and constructed or improved 117 public, senior, youth or special needs facilities. Partnering with over 50 agencies and 47 participating cities, the County also provided public services to 200,059 persons, supportive services to 3,008 seniors, and services and activities for 1,561 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 spent \$21.2 million, equaling over 97% of its total CDBG expenditures, for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons.

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MOTION

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Within fiscal years 2019 through 2024, the County expended nearly \$133 million in CDBG funds and was able to leverage an additional \$457 million in expenditures from other public and private sources during the same period. In summary, for every \$1 in CDBG funds expended, an additional \$3.43 in leverage funds was spent.

The Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV) was critical in the response and recovery efforts with Small Business Assistance Grants and Rent Relief for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the California Wildfires and Straight-line Winds Emergency Declaration, CDBG funds are now being used for senior services at Loma Alta Park since the Altadena Senior Center was destroyed by the fires. CDBG has been a flexible source of federal funds to be responsive to local needs.

It is vital that the CDBG Program continue to provide funding for revitalization of local infrastructure, public services, housing rehabilitation, neighborhood development, and supportive services.

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 \$348.8 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 5.7 times, for a total of over \$1.14 billion made available for local housing since 1992.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim April 21 through April 25, 2025, as National Community Development Week in the County of Los Angeles in order to recognize the history and accomplishments of the CDBG and HOME Programs.

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**In Recognition of National Community Development Week
April 21-25, 2025**

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 47 participating cities; and

WHEREAS, 2025 marks the 51st 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

WHEREAS, the nation annually celebrates the merits of the CDBG and HOME Programs during National Community Development Week, which will be celebrated from April 21 through April 25, 2025.

THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims April 21 through April 25, 2025, as National Community Development Week in the County of Los Angeles and resolves to continue to support funding for the CDBG and HOME Programs.

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