

## **What Is The Purpose of CDBG?**

The Community Development Block Grant program is a federal program that began operation in 1975. It is formally known as "Title 1" of The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. CDBG is run by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Congress's primary objective for CDBG has always been, and still is, to improve communities by providing "decent housing," a "suitable living environment," and "expanding economic opportunities," all "principally for persons of low and moderate income."

## **How Much Money Are We Talking About?**

Since CDBG's beginning in 1975, Congress has allocated about \$86 billion for the program through fiscal year 1998. Since 1993, the amount available to communities has increased another \$58.7 billion. However, as more suburban communities become eligible to get CDBG, the slice of the pie for any one place gets a bit smaller. Add to that the effects of inflation and the money available to any one place generally continues to shrink.

## **Who Gets The Money?**

Every year, each city with more than 50,000 people and each county over 200,000 in population, gets CDBG money automatically. These cities and counties are called "entitlement jurisdictions" because they are "entitled" to CDBG by virtue of their size. Entitlement jurisdictions get 70% of the money.

States get the other 30% of CDBG. Each state gets CDBG to pass along to its smaller towns and rural counties, which compete with one another for the funds. Every state has its own procedures for operating the "Small Cities" CDBG program.

The City of Burbank has been a CDBG grantee since the program's inception in 1975 and now averages \$1.4 million in entitlement funds yearly. Program projects and activities in vast majority meet the low-moderate income benefit national objective with 98-99% of the persons and households assisted annually at or below 80% of median family income, adjusted for household size.

Eligible activities utilized in Burbank predominately include acquisition of real property, relocation, public facilities and improvements, removal of architectural barriers, code enforcement, housing rehabilitation, and public services to the statutory maximum of 15% of funds programmed yearly. Specific projects include the land acquisition for construction and rehabilitation of homeowner/rental housing and community parks, the renovation and improvement of public schools, recreation and senior citizen centers, youth centers, and facilities for disabled individuals. Other activities include the reconstruction of streets and sidewalks, the installation of pedestrian ramps, improvements that increase accessibility to public facilities, and funding local organizations that provide public services.