



Promoting CDBG Public Services: Action Steps for Grantees

To celebrate the **50th anniversary** of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program in 2024, the CDBG Coalition has designated certain months for recognition of a distinct program activity. In **March 2024**, we are asking grantees and community members to help us highlight the benefits of **Public Services** provided by CDBG. Commonly funded activities include programs serving the homeless, aid to local food banks, services for low-income seniors, employment training, services for abused and neglected children, services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and health services, to name a few. In FY2023 alone, CDBG funded public service activities assisted over 7.5 million people.

Public Services Fact Sheets

- Share the CDBG Coalition CDBG public services [fact sheet](#) with your Congressional offices in March.
- In addition, develop a local public services fact sheet to share with your Congressional offices in March.

The fact sheet should contain the following elements:

- Types of public services activities funded by your CDBG grant.
- Types of organizations funded.
- How many people or households were served by CDBG-funded public services in your community in the last year?
- Types of beneficiaries served by the public services activities.
- Briefly describe the community development needs addressed by CDBG-funded public services projects through brief descriptions of projects funded.
- Do you receive more public services applications than what you can fund? If so, talk about the need for more CDBG funding and the need to increase the public services cap to at least 20%.

Engaging with Congress

- **Identify your members of Congress.** [Use this site](#) to locate the website of your House members and [this site](#) to locate your Senators. Share the two fact sheets with your Congressional offices in March.
Options for sharing the fact sheets:
 - Email it to their DC and local district office. Usually, their website will provide instructions for emailing information to the office. If not, then call the DC and the district office closest to you to obtain the email and staff contact (the person who works on housing issues) for sending the fact sheet.
 - Share the fact sheet with your Congressional members or their staff during a meeting in the local district office. Let the office know you are a constituent, who you are representing, and that you wish to discuss the CDBG program in your district.
- **Arrange Site Visits.** During National Community Development Week, April 1-5, choose local public service projects that have benefited from CDBG funding to highlight program success and necessity.
Tip: Prepare written project descriptions to hand out during the tour.
- **Additional Marketing.** Sharing proclamations, press releases, and program fact sheets addressing CDBG public service activities with local media are likely to gain the attention of community and Congressional members.

