



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

### *JUST THE FACTS*

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was created in 1974 by the Federal government to help local communities support physical, economic and social improvements, particularly for low- and moderate-income residents and neighborhoods. The CDBG program allows for considerable local discretion and citizen participation in allocating funds to address community needs.

Since its inception in Grand Rapids 46 years ago, the CDBG program has contributed more than \$222.55 million to community improvements targeted primarily for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons, and strengthening the foundation of our community as a whole.

Some activities supported by these funds are:

**Housing Rehabilitation:** 3,447 owner-occupied and two-family homes have been rehabilitated to improve housing conditions. Other programs assist with minor home repairs, emergency repairs, security improvements, exterior painting, lead-based paint hazard reduction, and access modifications for persons with physical disabilities. Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 alone, 375 homes were assisted with minor repairs.

**Housing Code Enforcement:** The City has used CDBG funding for code enforcement activities to further aid in stabilizing and improving housing stock in targeted neighborhoods. Over the last 46 years, more than 326,085 housing and property maintenance cases have prompted improved property conditions and resolution of neighborhood blight through private investment.

**Housing Opportunities Expansion:** A number of programs have been funded to expand affordable, decent housing opportunities through rehabilitation of rental units, rehabilitation of homes for lease-and-purchase, support of fair housing activities, and redevelopment of housing for special populations.

**Community Service Organizations:** Funding is provided annually to community organizations and neighborhood associations to strengthen and revitalize neighborhoods. Activities support quality of life and a sense of community in neighborhoods by reducing or preventing crime, and supporting neighborhood leadership and civic engagement. Housing-related mediation, legal services, job training, and additional support are offered.

**Public Works Improvements:** CDBG funds facilitate improvement to our community's physical infrastructure. Completed projects have resulted in over 4,114 public sidewalks repaired, over 1,900 trees planted, 779 trees saved from Emerald Ash Borer, 907 street or curb reconstructions, and numerous park improvements.