



BANK ENTERPRISE AWARD PROGRAM

MAXIMIZING

Investments in Distressed COMMUNITIES

Investing in economically distressed communities is key to their revitalization. The Bank Enterprise Award Program (BEA Program) awards FDIC-insured depository institutions for making investments in the most economically distressed communities throughout the nation. The BEA Program provides monetary awards to banks and thrifts that have successfully demonstrated an increase in their investments in census tracts with at least 30% of residents having incomes less than the national poverty level and 1.5 times the national unemployment rate. The awards also help banks and thrifts offset some of their risk and meet capital ratio requirements. The BEA Program is multiplying financial institutions' impacts and generating greater economic opportunity for those with the least access to financial products and services.

HOW DOES THE BEA PROGRAM WORK?

FDIC-insured depository institutions that demonstrate an increase in investing in Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) or in their own lending, investing, or service-related activities in distressed communities apply for a BEA Program award. Award amounts correlate with the percentage of increase in dollars associated with these activities: the greater the increase, the larger the award. Organizations that receive awards must then reinvest that money back into distressed communities.

WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES QUALIFY?

Qualified Activities include:

- CDFI Financing and Investments—Providing loans, deposits, technical assistance, equity, and equity-like loans and grants to CDFIs. CDFIs are financial institutions that specialize in serving individuals and communities that are underserved by traditional financial institutions. CDFIs include banks, credit unions, loan funds, and venture capital funds.
- Consumer and Commercial Financing—Providing loans, investments, and financial services directly to residents and businesses located in distressed communities. Financial services include basic transactions involving checks, money orders, and certified checks.

Unlike other CDFI Fund programs, the BEA Program provides awards for increasing past activities in distressed communities and not for planned or proposed activities. However, all BEA Program awardees must use their grants for Qualified Activities.

IS MY ORGANIZATION ELIGIBLE?

Any FDIC-insured insured depository institution is eligible to apply for a BEA Program award.

BEA PROGRAM IMPACT

The BEA Program helps to build businesses, create jobs, develop affordable housing, and promote homeownership in low-income communities throughout the country. Since its inception in 1994, the BEA Program has awarded grants totaling more than \$546 million. In 2020 alone, the BEA Program awarded more than \$25.2 million to organizations that:

- Increased their loans and deposits to CDFIs by \$43.3 million
- Increased their equity and equity-like loans and grants to CDFIs by \$31.7 million
- Increased their loans and investments in distressed communities by \$365.2 million
- Increased their provision of financial services in distressed communities by \$15.1 million

By multiplying the impact of private sector investments, the BEA Program is accelerating community revitalization across America.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit our website: www.cdfifund.gov/bea

Call our help desk for support: (202) 653-0421

Email us your questions: cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov