

MAIN STREET JOB RECOVERY PROGRAM



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The Main Street Job Recovery Program will create employment opportunities, support small businesses and startups, and increase self-sufficiency among Ohioans—particularly those with low-to moderate-incomes (LMI) – while working to strengthen and restore the community. The initiative will build on and augment the federal government’s existing Community Economic Development (CED) grant program and address the economic needs of residents through the creation of permanent businesses and job opportunities. The state program will support community efforts that drive catalytic investment that is needed most on Ohio’s Main Streets.

WHAT IS THE MAIN STREET JOB RECOVERY PROGRAM?

The Main Street Job Recovery Program will provide state funds for nonprofit organizations who are addressing the economic needs of low-income individuals and families through the creation of permanent business development and employment opportunities. The Main Street Job Recovery Program is modeled after the current CED program, which has a significant impact on Ohio having allocated over \$8.4 million in grants to Ohio since 2014. The Main Street Job Recovery Program will supplement the federal program by providing a needed grant resource for community developers to make investments that create good, permanent jobs for Ohioans while addressing pressing community economic development needs such as blight remediation, vacant properties, stable housing, and restoring Main Street.

HOW WILL THE MAIN STREET JOB RECOVERY PROGRAM WORK?

The Main Street Job Recovery Program will require new support at the state level. It will receive a \$2 million allocation annually. The new program will be connected to, but separate from, the Ohio CDC Association’s existing Microbusiness Development Program. The Ohio Development Services Agency will administer the program by providing competitive funding to nonprofit community developers who facilitate job creation through investments in Ohio’s communities. The Ohio CDC Association can assist in the program’s implementation. The funds will be distributed in a regional manner, ensuring each corner of Ohio can benefit from the program, rural, Appalachian, and urban.

The program will focus on creating good, permanent jobs for low-income Ohioans while rebuilding Main Street by addressing priorities such as blight remediation, vacant properties, housing, and the reentry population. The program administrator will work with grantees to track the impact on these metrics. The program’s success will be measured based on the number of businesses created and expanded, the number of jobs created for low- or moderate-income individuals, and the amount of funds leveraged as a result of the Main Street Job Recovery Program.

MAIN STREET INVESTMENT WILL ADDRESS THE STATE’S JOB CREATION CHALLENGES

Additional investment into a proven job creating program will yield significant benefits for Ohio’s economy by providing support for small business creation and additional employment opportunities in strategic ways that benefit the whole community.

Ohio’s current federal CED allocations are expected to leverage over \$83.8 million in additional public and private investment and result in the creation of 347 jobs as well as the creation or expansion of 36 businesses.¹

Additionally, the Ohio CDC Association’s existing Microbusiness Development Program, which provides \$450,000 in grants, has demonstrated success for low-income entrepreneurs. **In 2019 alone, the Association’s program created or retained 501 full-time jobs and started or expanded 303 businesses.**² Overall, Ohio’s CDCs have helped over 42,000 households with job training and small business development—resulting in 1,000 new or expanded local businesses and nearly 2,500 jobs in low-income communities.³

In 2019, Ohio’s annual average unemployment rate was 4.2 percent and 6.2 percent for workers of color. The business ownership rate was 15.3 percent. “Business ownership is a fundamental engine for wealth creation, but business ownership is more prevalent among white workers than among workers of color nationally and in almost all states.”⁴ This is true for the State of Ohio. **These numbers suggest that additional funds for community investment for business and job creation on Main Street will have an unprecedented, positive impact on the state.** Additional resources will help community developers continue the work that is critical to creating opportunities and restoring our communities within Ohio.

¹ “CED Map Current Grantee Locations FY 2019,” Administration for Children & Families, Office of Community Services, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ced/ced-grantees> (2019)

² Ohio CDC Association, 2019 Annual Report (2020)

³ “The Annual Impact of Ohio’s Community Development Corporations,” Ohio CDC Association, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58af2cc4579fb30871a3a760/t/5a2810b4e4966b072390cb8/1512575159908/Industry+Data+Report+Summary+2016.pdf> (2020)

⁴ “Data by Location, Ohio: Outcome,” Prosperity Now Scorecard, <https://scorecard.prosperitynow.org/data-by-location/#state/oh> (2019)

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CASE STUDY OF MAIN STREET JOB CREATION

Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership’s Building a Better Warren (BABW) program connects the need for true, resident-driven community revitalization with job creation, putting residents to work in full time, year-round jobs doing the work of blight remediation. The program offers residents training and employment in renovation, deconstruction, landscape installation, and vacant property maintenance in order to stabilize the city’s vacant and blighted properties, mitigate the impacts of blight, and create homeownership opportunities.



Program participants build marketable skills, gain long-term employment, and have the chance to develop professionally, all while directly improving their community. BABW created six new jobs, of which 75% are filled by low-income individuals. Both the jobs program and the work taken on by the Building A Better Warren team are direct results of TNP’s execution of neighborhood plans and through a \$225,000 Federal Health and Human Services, Community Economic Development Grant. This grant allowed for the construction of a community workshop, start-up tools, and quarterly financial counseling for employees of the BABW Program.

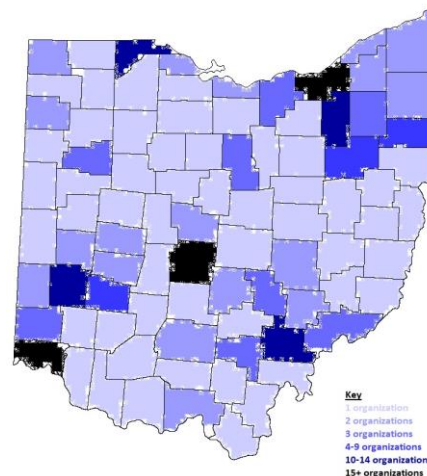


Currently, five Ohio nonprofit community development organizations have seven active federal CED grants totaling \$4,945,832 which is leveraging an additional \$80,894,800 in public and private investment for job creation and revitalization efforts.⁵

Pictured right: Build a Better Warren employees work on blight remediation to better the community in the Mahoning Valley.

ABOUT OHIO CDC ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1983, the Ohio CDC Association (OCDCA) is a statewide membership organization that fosters vibrant neighborhoods and improves the quality of life in all communities through advocacy and capacity building of our member agencies. OCDCA’s vision is the creation of a community development environment that comprehensively improves life opportunities for all Ohioans. Our membership is 270 strong and works primarily in low-to-moderate income (LMI) areas. The members address the needs of their communities through community development tactics including affordable housing, community economic development, community engagement, financial empowerment, and food access. Each of Ohio’s 88 counties is represented by at least one OCDCA member.



⁵ "CED Map Current Grantee Locations FY 2019," Administration for Children & Families, Office of Community Services, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ced/ced-grantees>, (2020)