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**From:** Julia Alessandra [jalessandra@jubileecenter.org]  
**Sent:** 8/5/2022 5:01:50 PM  
**To:** Comments [comments@fdic.gov]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL MESSAGE] RIN 3064-AF81 Comment

*Jubilee Park and Community Center* appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) regarding updating the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). This NPR represents the most significant changes to the CRA regulation and exams in 27 years. As a place-based organization in southeast Dallas, Jubilee has benefited from the CRA program significantly, through financial education and access to opportunity for our neighbors.

The NPR proposed some significant improvements in test rigor, but the improvements are not across the board on all aspects of exams. The NPR also improved data collection and the breadth of geographical areas on exams but did not include race on exams. In order to address ongoing discrimination which impacts our community, Jubilee asks that race be included in the exams with regard to ensuring equitable access. If left out, it would perpetuate a lack of accountability for banks to treat all Americans equitably.

NCRC had asserted in a paper that it is possible for changes to CRA to comply with legal standards if CRA examined lending by race and ethnicity in geographical areas experiencing ongoing discrimination. By including race and ethnicity, CRA can identify and address persistent racial disparities that have direct impacts on quality of life and health outcomes.

Since CRA requires banks to meet the needs of communities, the agencies must elevate the importance of public comments regarding the extent to which banks are meeting community needs. The agencies proposed to continue the current practice of sending any comments on CRA performance to banks and are also considering publishing comments received on agency websites. We urge the agencies to post comments on their websites and also to establish a public registry for community organizations to sign up if they wish to comment on CRA performance. In addition, we ask that the agencies publish a list of organizations that comment and that the agencies identify those led by people of color and women in an effort to seek input from a diverse range of organizations. Jubilee Park and Community Center is dedicated to community-led decision making and will lend our input to improving the CRA performance if possible.

The agencies correctly proposed to include new data collecting requirements for deposits, community development activities and automobile lending. Some of this data, such as deposit and automobile lending, would not be publicly available, which limits the extent to which the public can hold banks accountable. We ask the agencies to reconsider this decision and also to expand this data collection to all large banks.

Advocates have urged the agencies to examine lending that occurs online. The agencies proposed to create assessment areas where a large bank does not have branches when a bank has issued 100 home loans or 250 small business loans. This proposal would result in the great majority of total lending being incorporated on exams and would therefore hold banks more accountable for serving low- and moderate-income communities. However, the agencies must further ensure that exams do not overlook assessment areas containing smaller metropolitan areas and rural counties.

The agencies proposed to eliminate certain subtests for about 1,000 medium-sized and smaller banks that would eliminate their accountability for providing community development finance and branches in underserved communities. These changes lack justification since these banks have been successfully performing these activities for several years. We urge the agencies to eliminate this aspect of the NPR since it would reduce reinvestment activity.

The NPR is a good start and promises to make parts of CRA exams more rigorous but we urge the agencies to extend the rigor of the large bank lending test to the other tests. We also ask the agencies to incorporate race in CRA exams, to expand the public reporting of their data collection proposals and to incorporate the other improvements discussed above.

If CRA is improved while maintaining public input and accountability, we believe the proposed rule could help reduce inequalities, disinvestment and other disadvantages in America's overlooked communities. Thank you for taking the time and giving attention to making this important program as successful as it can be. Please take these comments into consideration in regard to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR).

Sincerely,  
Jubilee Park & Community Center