FDIC's Community Affairs Program

The FDIC's Community Affairs Program supports the FDIC's mission to promote stability and public confidence in the nation's financial system by encouraging economic inclusion and community development initiatives that broaden access to safe and affordable credit and deposit services from insured depository institutions, particularly for low- and moderate-income (LMI) consumers and small businesses.

To accomplish this work, the FDIC:

- provides information and technical assistance to banks to assist them in responding to the credit and banking needs of the communities they serve, including low- and moderate-income people;
- convenes banks, state and local governments, and community-based organizations to explore resources and promising practices on a variety of topics;
- develops and disseminates financial education tools for all ages to banks, teachers, parents, emerging small businesses, and nonprofit training organizations; and
- supports pilot programs and alliances to expand financial capability and economic inclusion.

For low- and moderate-income consumers and small business owners, access to the mainstream banking system provides an important pathway to economic opportunity. Over time, the establishment of a successful relationship with a depository institution can help manage day-to-day needs and build wealth to achieve future goals.

Broad participation in the mainstream financial system is an essential element in promoting stability and confidence in that system. Banks build trust and confidence through their ongoing work to serve their communities and by offering fair, safe, and affordable services, including for low- and moderate-income people. The FDIC's Community Affairs staff is available to assist financial institutions in developing strategies that are responsive to the credit, service, and investment needs of their communities.

ECONOMIC INCLUSION

The FDIC Community Affairs Program places a priority on addressing five areas of opportunity for economic inclusion. These are:

1. support quality programs and resources for financial education and capability;
2. promote access to and use of safe, affordable, insured deposit accounts;
3. improve household financial resilience by encouraging safe and affordable savings and credit solutions;
4. encourage insured depository institutions to make available prudently underwritten, affordable, and responsible mortgage credit for LMI households; and
5. encourage insured depository institutions and their partners to prudently serve the financial needs of emerging entrepreneurs and small businesses.

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