

Community
Affairs
in the
Federal
Reserve
System



Community Affairs

The Federal Reserve System, through its Community Affairs program at the Board and the 12 Federal Reserve Banks, engages in ongoing outreach, educational, and technical assistance activities to help financial institutions, community-based organizations, government entities, and the public understand and address financial services issues affecting low- and moderate-income persons and communities.

The Community Affairs program reflects the structure of the Federal Reserve System. Within the framework of a shared mission and goals, each of the 12 Reserve Banks establishes its own programs and responds to local needs in its District. As part of a nationwide entity, the Community Affairs program has the ability to collaborate on projects, to share information and resources, and to work together to accomplish goals at regional and national levels.

Mission

The mission of the Community Affairs program of the Federal Reserve System is to support the System's economic growth objectives by promoting community development and fair and impartial access to credit.

Federal Reserve System




The System's Community Affairs program seeks to achieve the following goals through a broad range of activities.

Foster the active engagement of depository institutions in providing credit and other banking services to their entire communities, including traditionally underserved markets.

- Facilitate and provide technical assistance for the formation of community development corporations, lending consortia, and other partnerships.
- Develop and present training programs on methods and financing for affordable housing and economic development.

Encourage cooperation among community organizations, government agencies, financial institutions, and other community development practitioners to their mutual benefit.

- Provide information about partnership efforts that support increased access to credit.
- Sponsor forums such as conferences, workshops, and trade fairs for the exchange of information, ideas, and available resources among lenders, community groups, and government officials.



Develop greater public awareness of the benefits and risks of financial services products and of the rights and responsibilities that derive from community investment and fair lending regulations.

- Disseminate information on special lending programs and resources, regulatory rights and responsibilities, and regulatory trends.
- Analyze the impact of regulatory restrictions and requirements on individuals, institutions, and communities.

Promote a better understanding by policy makers, community leaders, and private-sector decision makers of the processes and resources that support successful community development programs and best practices of community development.

- Promote research on urban and rural economic issues and underserved credit markets.
- Produce and distribute materials that feature successful community development resources and techniques.
- Participate in community, Federal Reserve, and interagency projects and forums regarding the development of policies promoting community investment and equal access to credit.

Products and Services

Each Federal Reserve Bank Community Affairs Office (CAO) develops specific products and services to meet the informational needs of its regional market. These information products and services fall into three major areas.

Publications

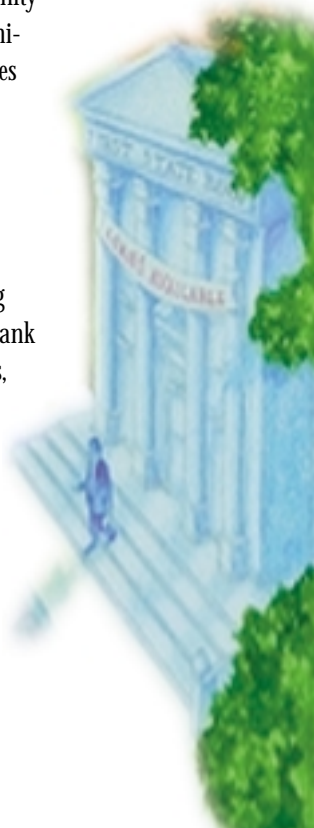
The CAOs issue a wide array of publications. These include newsletters that highlight community reinvestment activities, profiles that assess the credit needs of communities and identify programs that help banks meet those needs, and special publications that cover topics such as fair lending and small business technical assistance.

Conferences, Training, and Presentations

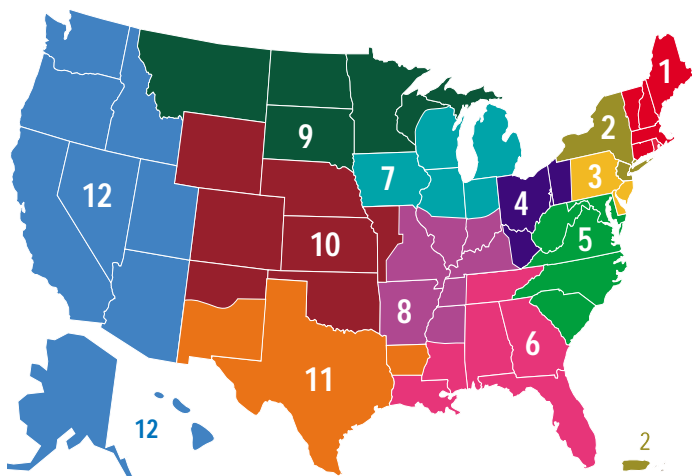
The CAOs sponsor and participate in a variety of public forums that provide information and guidance on CRA-related requirements, community investment and development opportunities, and model programs and resources from around the country.

Technical Assistance

The CAOs provide a wide range of technical information on community and economic development, including information on the creation of multibank community development corporations, public/private affordable housing development partnerships, and small business lending.



Federal Reserve Districts



1 Boston

www.bos.frb.org
(617) 973-3227

2 New York

www.ny.frb.org
(212) 720-5215

3 Philadelphia

www.phil.frb.org
(215) 574-6458

4 Cleveland

www.clev.frb.org
(216) 579-2846

5 Richmond

www.rich.frb.org
(804) 697-8447

6 Atlanta

www.frbatlanta.org
(404) 589-7200

7 Chicago

www.frbchi.org
(312) 322-8232

8 St. Louis

www.stls.frb.org
(314) 444-8646

9 Minneapolis

woodrow.mpls.frb.fed.us
(612) 204-5500

10 Kansas City

www.kc.frb.org
(816) 881-2687

11 Dallas

www.dallasfed.org
(214) 922-5377

12 San Francisco

www.frbsf.org
(415) 974-2978

Board of Governors

www.federalreserve.gov
(202) 452-3378

Visit our Web sites for detailed information on each Bank's Community Affairs program.