

FY 2021 Exception Grantees, Based on 2011-2015 ACS

Most activities funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program are designed to benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons. That benefit may take the form of housing, jobs, and services. Additionally, activities may qualify for CDBG assistance if the activity will benefit all the residents of a primarily residential area where at least 51 percent of the residents are low- and moderate-income persons. Such area-benefit activities include things such as parks, neighborhoods, facilities, community centers and streets.

However, some communities have no or very few areas in which 51 percent of the residents are low- and moderate-income. For these grantees, the CDBG law authorizes an exception criterion for such grantees to be able to undertake area benefit activities. Specifically, section 105(c)(2)(A)(ii) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, states that an activity shall be considered to principally benefit low and moderate income persons when "the area served by such activity is within the highest quartile of all areas within the jurisdiction of such city or county in terms of the degree of concentration of persons of low and moderate income."

Section 105(c)(2)(A)(ii) is implemented in the CDBG regulations at 24 CFR 570.208(a)(1)(ii), which identifies the following methodology to calculate a grantee's "exception" threshold: all block groups within the grantee's jurisdiction in which people are residing are rank ordered from the highest percentage of low- and moderate-income persons to lowest. (For urban counties, the rank ordering covers the entire area of the county, rather than being done separately by participating units of government within the county.) The total number of block groups is divided by four. If the percentage of low- and moderate-income persons in the last block group in the top quartile is less than 51 percent, that percentage becomes the grantee's low- and moderate-income threshold for area benefit activities. NOTE: whenever the total number of block groups does not divide evenly by four, the block group that would be fractionally divided is included in the top quartile.

The file below reflects the CDBG "exception grantees" and the exception threshold for each based on the 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS). This percentage represents the minimum percentage of low- and moderate-income persons that must reside in the service area of an area benefit activity for the activity to be assisted with CDBG funds.

[FY 2021 Exception Grantees](#)

[FY 2021 Exception Grantees, Based on 2011-2015 ACS - HUD Exchange](#)

American Community Survey 5-Year 2011-2015 Low and Moderate Income Summary Data (HUD FY21)							
CDBGUOGID	CDBGNAME	STUSAB	CDBGTY	LOWMOD	LOWMODUNIV	LOWMODPCT	Top Quartile (FY21)
202688	Overland Park	KS	Principal City	52,765	180,085	29.30%	42.02%
209091	Johnson County	KS	Urban County	90,560	320,425	28.26%	43.46%
210696	Elizabethtown	KY	Principal City	11,570	28,410	40.73%	48.61%
229103	St. Tammany Parish	LA	Urban County	66,635	213,290	31.24%	45.90%
239005	Cumberland County	ME	Urban County	73,755	194,580	37.90%	50.20%
240156	Bowie City	MD	Metro City	12,570	56,565	22.22%	26.54%
249003	Anne Arundel County	MD	Urban County	137,294	501,640	27.37%	37.50%
249005	Baltimore County	MD	Urban County	308,575	802,055	38.47%	50.31%
249025	Harford County	MD	Urban County	75,460	246,920	30.56%	42.54%
249027	Howard County	MD	Urban County	60,390	302,000	20.00%	26.44%
249031	Montgomery County	MD	Urban County	286,189	939,315	30.47%	42.55%
250078	Arlington	MA	Metro City	11,110	43,815	25.36%	33.67%
250126	Attleboro	MA	Metro City	14,515	43,375	33.46%	48.04%
250168	Barnstable	MA	Principal City	18,780	44,130	42.56%	47.46%