



Neighborhood
Services

IMPACT BOOK 2025

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME
Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) grants

Strengthening Fort Worth:
*Celebrating the Impact of the
Community Development Block Grant
& HOME Grants in Our Neighborhoods*



100 Fort Worth Trail
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
FortWorthTexas.gov/neighborhoods



KACEY BESS
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
DIRECTOR

As the Director of the Neighborhood Services Department for the City of Fort Worth, I am proud to celebrate and highlight the significant impact of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) grants. Reflecting on the past several years of service to our community, it's clear that the progress we've made in strengthening Fort Worth's neighborhoods wouldn't have been possible without the support of these vital grants.

We remain dedicated to empowering residents by enhancing housing, community development, and social services through the strategic use of federal grants provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As you explore this impact book, we hope you gain a deeper understanding of the positive changes we've been able to achieve together.

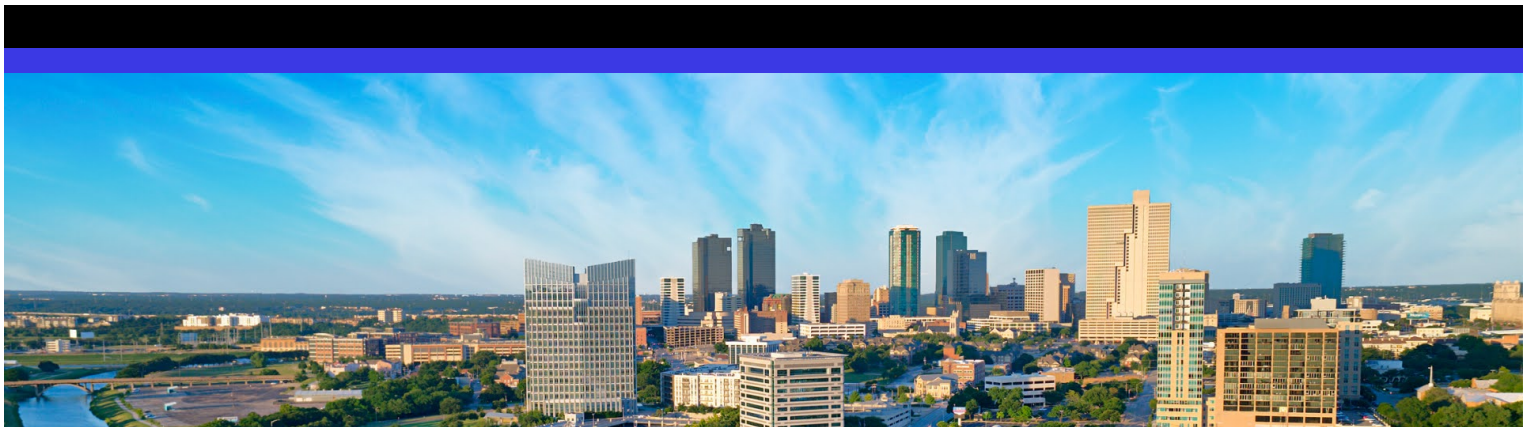
In the past year alone, we've allocated over \$10,000,000 in CDBG funding and more than \$4,000,000 in HOME funding to improve the Fort Worth community.

These investments have directly impacted the lives of over 3,500 residents, addressing needs such as children and youth services, affordable housing, accessibility improvements, economic empowerment, financial resilience, aging-in-place services, housing preservation and rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, and healthy living and wellness programs.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, public service agencies, and developers who have collaborated with us to bring these efforts to fruition. We are deeply grateful for their support and thankful for their help in making Fort Worth one of the best places to live, work, and play.

Together, we are building stronger neighborhoods by empowering residents with housing, community development, and essential social services, while delivering the nation's best services to those who need them most.





2023-2027 Consolidated Plan Goals

and effective through September 2027, focuses on improving the quality of life for low to moderate-income residents and neighborhoods. It outlines the city’s goals and priorities related to affordable housing and community development.

Developed through public meetings, research, and feedback from stakeholders, the plan identifies nine key goals. These priorities guide how Fort Worth uses federal funding from programs like the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and other HUD grants.



The City of Fort Worth’s Consolidated Plan, submitted to HUD every five years, is shaped through collaboration with residents, community organizations, local businesses, and nonprofits.

It serves as a roadmap for addressing housing and community development needs, based on current conditions, available resources, and public input.

The 2023–2027 Consolidated Plan, adopted in 2023





Nine Priorities for CDBG & HOME Funding



<p>Housing Preservation and Rehabilitation Preserve and expand the supply of quality affordable housing throughout the City.</p>	<p>Affordable Housing (Renter and Owner) Increase neighborhood stability through homeownership assistance, creation of new affordable units, rehabilitation of substandard affordable units, Fair Housing efforts, and supportive services for renters and owners.</p>
<p>Accessibility improvements Improve accessibility in public facilities and housing, including architectural barrier removal.</p>	<p>Children/Youth Services Support programs and services to prepare children and youth for success through educational, mentoring, training, and related programs.</p>
<p>Economic Empowerment and Financial Resilience Support programs and services providing employment training and career readiness programs that promote self-sufficiency and household stability.</p>	<p>Aging In Place Support programs and services for older adults to access resources needed to age in their homes, while maintaining both their independence and quality of life.</p>
<p>Neighborhood Improvement and Revitalization Enhance neighborhood development and revitalization throughout the City.</p>	<p>Homelessness Prevention and Special Needs Support Provide housing and support services for persons experiencing and at risk of experiencing homelessness; support efforts to achieve permanent housing.</p>
<p>Healthy Living and Wellness Support programs and services to improve the mental and physical health of low-to moderate income Fort Worth families.</p>	



HISTORY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (HOME)

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) are two of the most prominent federal grant programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Both are designed to support local governments in improving housing, living conditions, and economic opportunities, especially for low- and moderate-income populations. While they share a common goal of strengthening communities, each program has a distinct focus and origin.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

The CDBG program was established in 1974 through Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act. It was created to consolidate several categorical grant programs into a single flexible funding source, giving local governments greater discretion in addressing community needs. Since its inception, CDBG has served as a vital resource for promoting decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities, primarily for low- and moderate-income (LMI) individuals.

CDBG funds are distributed annually to entitlement communities—generally cities with populations over 50,000 and urban counties with populations over 200,000—as well as to states for allocation to smaller communities. At least 70% of CDBG funds must benefit LMI populations, ensuring that the resources are directed where they are needed most.

The strength of the CDBG program lies in its flexibility. Eligible uses include public infrastructure improvements, housing rehabilitation, economic development projects, and public services. Local jurisdictions are empowered to prioritize their spending based on unique local challenges and goals.





HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)

The HOME program was established later, in 1990, under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act. Unlike the broader focus of CDBG, HOME is the largest federal block grant dedicated exclusively to affordable housing. It provides funding to states and local governments to create and preserve affordable housing for low-income households, defined as families earning 80% or less of the area median income (AMI).

HOME funds can be used for a variety of housing-related activities, including:

New construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing	Direct financial assistance to homebuyers
Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA)	Site acquisition and improvement

One unique aspect of the HOME program is its emphasis on leveraging non-federal resources. Grantees are required to provide a 25% match for the federal funds they receive, which promotes partnerships between public, private, and nonprofit sectors. In addition, HOME mandates long-term affordability requirements to ensure that housing assisted with federal funds remains accessible to low-income families for a specified period.

Fort Worth has received over \$332 million from the CDBG program since 1975, supporting community development projects and activities, and \$95 million from the HOME program since 1992, supporting the development of sustainable and affordable housing benefiting low-to-moderate-income individuals and households, including older adults, children, people with disabilities, and those experiencing chronic or frequent homelessness.

Through the effective use of CDBG and HOME funding, Fort Worth has made significant strides in enhancing the quality of life for its residents. These federal programs have enabled the city to address critical housing needs, revitalize neighborhoods, and support community development initiatives that benefit low- and moderate-income individuals and families.



AB Christian Learning

AB Christian Learning Center's (ABCLC) mission is to improve the academic performance of at-risk youth by taking a holistic approach to addressing their needs. Our goals are; improve the academic skills of children in a safe out of school time environment; and increase parental involvement in their children's education.

ABCLC is a community faith-based organization, which primarily serve economically disadvantaged families in Stop Six, Como, Morningside, Poly and Handley communities. ABCLC provides after school tutoring and mentoring and summer reading program to children at risk of academic failure at no cost to families. ABCLC has been an active

partner with the City of Fort Worth since 2008, operating programs in community centers for 16 years. ABCLC operates after school, summer reading programs, and college career readiness programs at Martin Luther King Community Center 2008. As sponsoring organization of AmeriCorps' Foster Grandparent Program, ABCLC partners with the City of Fort Worth Community Centers to place active senior citizens as volunteers within their

community to tutor and mentor students in afterschool programs and summer camps. These senior volunteer help children learn to read, provide one-on-one tutoring; mentor trouble teenagers; help children with disabilities; and/or help children who have been abused or neglected. During the past two years. ABCLC programs are intergenerational utilizing college students from within the community served to teach students in after-school and summer programs.

The program also uses senior citizen volunteers from within the communities served to tutor and mentor students. This intergenerational approach allows community members to connect with and give back to their communities in a meaningful way. The programs have also allowed children to have additional one-on-one academic assistance by caring adults from their community. In the past two (2) years, ABCLC has been the proud recipient of \$153,218 Community Development Block Grant funds to support operations of its Out of School Time Programs for low income families.





Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tarrant County

For almost 100 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Tarrant County (BGCCTC) has been a beacon of hope for kids who need us most. As the City of Fort Worth embarks on an exciting revitalization plan for the historic Stop Six neighborhood, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tarrant County was honored to receive a 2023-24 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in support of our Youth Development programs at our Eastside branch.

Recognizing the need for a safe place for children in the expanding community, BGCCTC's Eastside branch was founded in 1926 in an old converted gas station. Since then, the branch has evolved to include a large outdoor area with baseball fields and a playground and dedicated spaces for education, social recreation, art, teen activities, dining, a kitchen, a gym, and a Music & Youth Clubhouse.

Stop Six currently has the highest crime rate in the city, with law enforcement reporting after-school hours are

when youth are most likely to engage in risky behavior. Eastside branch minimizes the risk by providing a safe, positive environment and programs focused on academic success, healthy lifestyles, character and leadership development, and workforce readiness. Members are exposed to the arts, music, sports, creative STEM-based activities, and more. Every child also receives a nutritious snack and a hot, made-from-scratch meal daily.

One of the most notable achievements of BGCCTC Eastside branch is its high academic success rate among its members. Partnering with the local ISD, the Eastside Academic Success programs are designed to combat dropout rates and provide the support, encouragement, and mentorship needed to finish school.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tarrant County serves more than 76,000 youth annually across Denton and Tarrant counties, and our Eastside branch hosts 120 kids daily. More families will be attracted to the area as the City invests in new affordable housing. Eastside branch will meet the need for life-changing youth development programs to provide the same opportunities for success as their peers and help them grow into caring, productive, and responsible citizens.





CAMP FIRE TEENS IN ACTION

Through our free Teens in Action program, Camp Fire First Texas aims to make a difference in the lives of the young people in Fort Worth. The support our program receives from CDBG is instrumental in allowing us to provide life-changing opportunities and experiences to teens who may otherwise not have them. It's mentors who listen, who guide, who show up. It's real-world experiences: college visits, career exploration, and community service. It's about giving young people the tools and confidence to shape their own futures.

Through Teens in Action, we provide a place to belong, to be seen, and to grow. Because every teen deserves the chance to dream big and to step into adulthood knowing they have a future worth fighting for. And together—we can make sure no teen feels alone in that journey.

Success for Fort Worth Middle & High School Students

-  College & Scholarship Readiness
-  Healthy Relationships
-  Volunteer Opportunities
-  Career Guidance & Exploration
-  Build Self-Esteem
-  Teens Night Out

In the 2023-2024 school year:

- ✓ All Teens in Action students advanced to the next grade
- ✓ 18 high school graduates received \$597,496 in scholarships



FREE
SCHOOL YEAR
WEEKLY PROGRAM
& SUMMER
DAY CAMP





Child Care Associates (CCA), in collaboration with the City of Fort Worth, PNC Foundation and the Happy Baggett Fund, proudly completed the renovation and opening of its new Child Care Studio at Riverside. This innovative facility, located in the heart of the Riverside neighborhood, marks the first of several Child Care Studios to open across Fort Worth, designed to provide children with nature-inspired classrooms and outdoor learning environments. Fort Worth's \$500,000 in CDBG funding allowed this project to get off the ground, providing a gift to

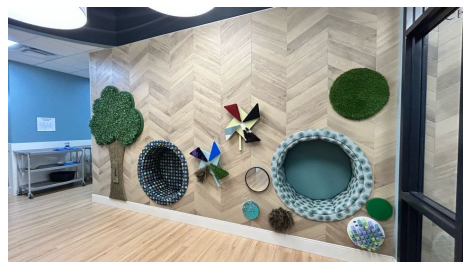
Child Care Associates

"This Child Care Studio is a great example of how collaboration across our community can make a difference in the lives of our youngest residents," said Kara Waddell, president and CEO of Child Care Associates. "Our community's investment in early learning infrastructure, like Riverside, reflects our shared commitment to enriching young children's experiences and fostering a lifelong love of learning." CCA spearheaded the renovation project with the support of the City of Fort Worth, utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to expand classrooms for infants and toddlers in high-need areas across Tarrant County. The former Gwendolyn C. Gragg Child Development Center has been rebranded under CCA's Child Care Studios sub-brand and is now officially named the Child Care Studio at Riverside. The

"This Child Care Studio is a great example of how collaboration across our community can



center offers affordable tuition, tuition assistance, and comprehensive Head Start and Early Head Start services.



As one of the largest child development programs in North Texas, Child Care Associates (CCA) is recognized as an early education leader both regionally and nationally. Established in 1968, CCA annually serves more than 15,000 children and their families and more than 790 educators who benefit from coaching, mentoring and training each year.

CCA's mission to build family success through quality early education and development services emphasizes the long-term, broad impact of positive early childhood experiences for entire communities. When a child benefits from quality child care and early learning, one is more

likely to be ready for kindergarten, read on grade level in elementary school and then, be better prepared for a lifetime of learning, employment and productive adulthood. CCA is working to deliver on our promise to lead quality early education for every child, with every family, in every neighborhood and we are a proud partner of Fort Worth.

Child Care
associates

Cowtown Brush Up

CDBG Impact



▲ Before



Fall 2024

Elois R.

Fort Worth, Texas 76106

Elois is an 80-year-old homeowner who is wheelchair-bound, living in her home for over 50 years. Due to her limited mobility, she struggled to maintain the exterior of her home and subsequently developed very extensive damage on all sides of her home. Through her participation in the program, we were able to replace the damaged, rotten siding and trim, and with the help of dedicated volunteers, we gave her home a fresh coat of paint, restoring its beauty and breathing new life into the space she cherishes.



▲ After

Cowtown Brush Up

CDBG Impact



Spring 2024

Joe H.

Fort Worth, Texas 76119

Another example of an amazing transformation is of Mr. Joe H's property. He has been in his home for over 30 years and the paint on his home was chipped very extensively in various areas of his home.

Once he became accepted in the program, he jumped into action and during the Cowtown Brush-up event date he stood side by side with the volunteers in painting his home and transforming the exterior. With this refresh to the home's exterior, we were able to assist in restoring the home's beauty and protecting it from further damage.



◀ Before



After ▶▶





Delara Chase is a 9% Competitive LIHTC rehab of the existing Candle Chase Apartments located at 4805 Altamesa Blvd that will provide mixed-income family housing. The existing apartments were originally developed as affordable housing in 1969 but the Land Use Restriction continued to provide affordable rents expired in December 2023. The rehab of this community will allow this property to continue to be affordable to families in Wedgwood for 45 more years. This ±4.31 acre multifamily development consists of 116 units including a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom units.

In July 2024 Delara Chase was awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credits by TDHCA. In recent years, there has not been a family tax credit housing developed in this area. Due to its location in proximity to job opportunities, transportation, and city amenities, Delara Chase was the 4th highest scoring application in the entire region out of seventeen full applications submitted.

Delara Chase

Delara Chase will be a rehab of the existing Candle Chase Apartments that will continue serving families in

Fort Worth's Wedgwood neighborhood and include the following:

- New ADA Accessible Clubhouse Building with on-site management office, gathering spaces, fitness and computer rooms, and two after school tutoring spaces
- Each unit will have new vinyl flooring, granite countertops, new appliances, tile tub surrounds, and all drywall will be replaced.
- Installing fire suppression systems in the units including sprinklers and fire alarms
- Updating the onsite water heaters to current electric technology, both to improve service to the units and lower the environmental impact of the development by going all-electric
- Replacing and upgrading all community laundry machines

95% of the rehabbed units will be available to LMI populations, between 30 and 60% AMI.

The project has been awarded a **Community Development Block Grant award of \$3,377,708 from the City of Fort Worth** to help cover the acquisition cost of the existing apartment community.

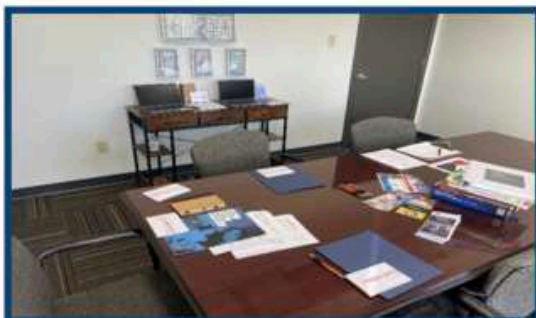


DELARA
— CHASE —

Easterseals Lonestar Employment Services assists job seekers with disabilities and other barriers find and retain meaningful employment, through person-centered services offering Job Clubs and a Resource Center.

Our mission:
To create opportunities that empower people of all abilities to live their best lives.

	ACTIVITIES	DETAILS
75 Clients receiving community referrals	Community Resources and Referrals	Connects clients to resources to address social needs and barriers to employment Referrals to MHMR, TWC, apprentice and training programs, legal aid, rental/utility assistance, clothing closets, and more
56 Clients receiving job training classes	Job readiness and advancement trainings	Employment readiness (resume instruction, interview preparation, job search training) Supported employment, job development and placement, job coaching, retention and advancement services
34 Clients obtaining employment	Connecting with local business; securing meaningful employment	Connect with businesses to determine current openings and train clients to fill the needs Person-centered services to assist un- and under-employed individuals with meaningful employment



Acknowledgements

Thank you to the City of Fort Worth for awarding Easterseals Lonestar with **\$60,000** to serve individuals with disabilities, who are justice-involved, living at or below the poverty level, experiencing homelessness or are home insecure, and our veterans.



Girls Inc. of Tarrant County is honored to be a recipient of a \$100,000.00 Community Development Block Grant for the 2024-2025 grant cycle. Through this generous opportunity, we have expanded program access to the community we serve by increasing the locations where we provide programs and services. As a result, CDBG has consistently helped us achieve and maximize our impact of program participants' skills that will help them excel academically, professionally, and socially.

At **Northside High School**, participants learned about the importance of setting goals, the difference between short-term vs. long-term goals, and created vision boards with inspiring words and images of things they want to accomplish. A Career Expo at **William Monnig Middle School**,

community volunteers visited the campus and shared insights into their professions, leaving students inspired by their stories and motivated to pursue their own aspirations. At Diamond Hill Community Center, an anti-bullying lesson helped girls understand the different types of bullying-physical, verbal, and

cyberbullying- how to recognize the signs and how they can support themselves and others. The girls also created anti-bullying flyers to spread the message of kindness.

Additionally, we have added Second Saturday workshops, which take place in our facility, to our program schedule outside of those at our partner schools and community centers. These workshops have featured career panels and hands-on activities from Oncor, National Association of Women in Construction-Fort Worth, as well as financial literacy coaching, CPR training, and other valuable skills that benefit participants and their families.

Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold!

We are also proud to share the lasting impact we've made with the

Ruvalcaba family whose daughters first started attending GITC programs at the Diamond Hill/Jarvis Library. Ximena (left) shared that her involvement in a service activity where girls assembled care kits for the homeless taught her the value of community work. Gema (right) is a graduate of Northside HS and is currently a freshman at TCC where she is majoring in forensic science. Julieta (center) is now a senior at UNT and will be the first in her family to graduate college. She credits GITC for her smooth transition from high school to college, noting that she received help filling out admission applications, financial aid forms, and that her mentors always made her believe she could succeed.

**girls
inc.**

of Tarrant County

Money Smart+ Workshops



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding supports Money Smart+ workshops, offering Fort Worth seniors a proven curriculum to safeguard their incomes from fraud or financial exploitation and help seniors confidently age in place.

The impact

- Free Money Smart+ workshops help prevent crime and protect limited incomes
- Hundreds of alumni amplify knowledge through their social networks
- Program services also help seniors access Medicare Savings Programs and other important benefits



Money Smart workshops are offered through the Financial Exploitation Prevention Center at GSI and have been made possible by a total of \$451,075 in CDBG funding received since the program began in FY 2019.



Achievement of the Chisholm Trail received \$50,000 through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the 2024-2025 program year to support the delivery of JA Inspire Jr and JA Our Series. These programs provide engaging, hands-on learning experiences that bring real-world concepts to life for K-5 students in Fort Worth ISD, fostering financial literacy, career exploration, and workforce readiness.

The CDBG grant has allowed Junior Achievement to expand its reach and enhance program delivery, ensuring that young students gain early exposure to financial literacy and career pathways. By integrating real-world applications into classroom instruction, these programs create meaningful connections between students' education and future opportunities.

Junior Achievement of the Chisholm Trail

JA Inspire Jr: Blended Learning with Real-World Exploration This program blends classroom instruction with interactive career exploration, helping students connect their interests and studies to real-world career paths.

In-Class Activities: Educators guide students through engaging lessons on jobs, teamwork, problem-solving, and financial literacy using storytelling, games, and roleplaying.

Hands-On Simulations: During Career Day, community volunteers from industries such as healthcare, technology, education, construction, and public service share their career journeys and expertise, providing students with firsthand industry exposure.

At **Versia Williams Elementary**, students created floral bouquets with Claudia Garcia, owner of Special Occasions by C, and explored museum careers with Adam Werner from the Amon Carter Museum. At Springdale Elementary, Dr. Payal Patel from Lone Star Dental and Braces provided hands-on dental hygiene lessons, while Israel Lopez from Round 1 Boxing taught self-defense techniques and self-discipline.





JA Our Series: Grade-Specific, Volunteer-Led Experiences This volunteer-driven program offers structured, standards-aligned lessons tailored to each grade level (K-5), focusing on financial literacy, community roles, entrepreneurship, and career readiness.

- **Interactive Learning:** Through stories, games, discussions, and role-playing, students actively engage in their education.

- **Progressive Curriculum:** Each year builds on the previous content, increasing complexity as students advance.

- **Real-World Relevance:** Volunteers bring professional experiences into the classroom, making learning engaging and applicable.

The CDBG funding has played a crucial role in empowering students with essential skills for their future. By fostering financial literacy, career readiness, and hands-on learning, Junior Achievement continues to equip young learners with the tools they need to succeed in the evolving workforce.





As a recipient of \$192,501.64 of Community Development Block Grants in 2024, Presbyterian Night Shelter leveraged these funds to help change the lives of men and women staying in the Karl Travis Men’s Center and the Loudon-Schutts Women’s Center who have been experiencing homelessness. By covering the salaries and benefits for 5 Journey Home Guides in our Moving Home program, the grant helped us to move 320 individuals out of the Shelter and into permanent housing in 2024.

Our Journey Home Guides provide vital case management to our guests, working with them to assess their best path out of homelessness and creating a plan to achieve that goal. Providing individualized case management, Journey Home Guides connect our guests with important resources, like mental health services, housing services, and employment opportunities. They help guests obtain critical documents that may have been lost or stolen, such as Social Security cards or birth certificates. They also serve as a grounding

touchstone that lets our guests know they matter – that somebody cares about them and their progress. Our Journey Home Guides know how to provide encouragement and support while allowing the guest to participate fully in the process.

Presbyterian Night Shelter

In 2024-2025, Presbyterian Night Shelter was also allocated \$4,878,000 HOME-ARP funds. These funds underwrote the

construction of 40 units of housing out of a 96-unit permanent supportive housing project called Journey Home Housing Apartments. Located at 7550 Crowley Road in Fort Worth, these newly constructed units will provide permanent affordable housing to individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness, who have a disability, and who are at or below 30% of the Annual Median Income (AMI) as set by HUD.

Each unit is a single studio-style apartment that comes furnished. Free onsite laundry facilities are available. Additionally, case management is also provided for residents to help them maintain stability in their housing.

“Those who opt to use our supportive services, like case management, are able to steady themselves more quickly,” says Krystal Lotspeich, Vice President of Housing Services for Presbyterian Night Shelter. “[those] in case management tend to be better equipped with coping skills and are ultimately more successful at staying in their home.”

An additional \$50,000 HOME-ARP funds will be allocated when one of the 40 HOME-ARP units is leased.



The Women's Center of Tarrant County: Employment Solutions



For over 40 years, The Women's Center of Tarrant County has supported vulnerable people experiencing poverty create *pathways to prosperity* and *self-reliance* through the **Employment Solutions** program. Investments from the City of Fort Worth through the Community Development Block Grant program support the **Jobs Now Rapid Employment** track and are essential to maintaining the reach of services in the face of wide-scale funding reductions.

The Jobs Now Process

Delivered using the evidence-based Working Families Success model, Employment Solutions provides bundled Workforce Development, Financial Coaching and Resource Connection to help individuals find the best job at the highest wage as quickly as possible.



CDBG Impact

- ✓ **CDBG Dollars Invested in Employment Solutions:** More than \$60,000 annually
- ✓ **People Reached:** Over 150 Fort Worth Residents reached annually
- ✓ **Coaching Hours Delivered:** 2,100+ hours of Coaching Hours are delivered to CDBG clients (including Financial Coaching)
- ✓ **Employment Rate/Wage:** 80%+ of clients employed at wages over \$17 per hour
- ✓ **Job Retention:** Over 90% of clients retained employment for at least 1 year
- ✓ **Financial Stability Outcomes:** Nearly 90% of clients feel better able to manage their finances and over 80% reach one or more personal defined financial goal.



The Voices of Clients Served

"I absolutely love my job, I love being there, and most of all, I love my customers! I love to make the store look nice and make my customers feel valued."

"The Employment Solutions program helped renew my confidence in seeking and

"My experience at the Women's Center was exceptional. The information provided by the Career and Financial Coaches helped to boost my eagerness



Since 1909, United Community Centers has been dedicated to empowering those in need, nurturing learners, and strengthening families at its centers in the Polytechnic Heights, Diamond Hill-Jarvis, and Historic Southside neighborhoods of Fort Worth. Thanks to CDBG’s generous \$100,000 grant, we are able to ensure that children and families receive the resources they need to thrive.

Education Literacy Program

Our innovative, licensed childcare program supports students from Pre-K to 7th grade by fostering academic growth for long-term success while providing a nurturing and supportive environment for

children and their families. UCC’s classroom teachers lead interactive learning centers, provide targeted small-group instruction, and offer personalized enrichment activities. Each center is staffed with an Early Childhood Literacy Specialist and a Literacy Specialist, who guide our teachers and

United Community Centers

are dedicated to assessment and intervention, ensuring every child receives the attention they need to succeed. To further fuel learning, UCC provides freshly prepared meals, including breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks, ensuring students have the energy they need to succeed. Our staff provides regular updates and one-on-one conferences to keep parents informed about their child’s progress and help facilitate communication with schools when needed.

Academic Outcomes

83% of students in our Education Literacy Program advanced one or more reading levels in just four months (August to December 2024). Today, over half (54%) of our students are at or above grade reading level. Of those who started below, 74% have already climbed at least one level!

A Story of Success

A bilingual student’s journey began the school year as a 2nd-grader at a pre-K reading level, grew six reading levels in half a year, and is now entering a 1st-grade reading level—proof of her incredible dedication and the power of personalized learning. Today, she proudly helps classmates struggling with sight words, transforming from a learner into a leader. Her mother calls UCC a blessing, seeing her daughter not just succeed academically but also uplift her peers. This journey isn’t just about improving skills—it’s about building confidence, igniting potential, and proving that with the right support, every child can succeed.





**EDUCATIONAL LITERACY PROGRAM
2024-2025 Mid Year Outcomes**

54% of all UCC students achieved at or above reading level.

**Below Level
46%**



**Above Level
41%**

**On Level
14%**

Bethlehem



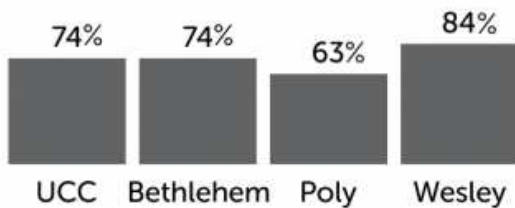
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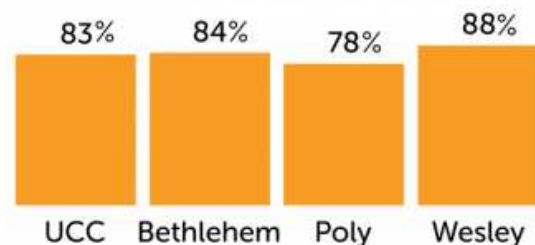
Wesley



Students Below Reading Level Who Gained 1+ Levels



Overall Gained Reading Levels



20 UCC students gained four or more reading levels



Your Harvest House was awarded \$25,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, a vital resource that directly supports Fort Worth residents through our longstanding Financial Aid Program. These funds are used to provide emergency assistance with rent, mortgage, and utility payments, offering a lifeline to families in crisis. In 2024 we were able to assist 115 Tarrant County households—part of a total of 296 families served through \$123,568 in aid. With 94% of those being clients who had not requested assistance in the previous twelve months, this program proves to be both impactful and empowering.

Each financial aid case involves a thorough intake process—including income verification and crisis consultation—with payments made directly to landlords or service providers. This ensures accountability while restoring stability and dignity to our clients.

Harvest House

Since our founding in 1984, Harvest House has been a pillar of hope for low-to-moderate-income individuals and families across North Texas. Our mission—"Feed – Clothe – Restore"—drives everything we do, from addressing food insecurity to offering pathways to long-term stability. In 2024, we served over 9,000 residents, with 44% living in Tarrant County.

Our Food Pantry remains our top priority, providing groceries without income restrictions and partnering with eight local food ministries to reach even more neighbors in need. Through our Clothing Voucher Program, families can shop for clothing and household items at our Resale Store at no cost. Beyond meeting immediate needs, our Financial Aid Program, supported in part by CDBG funds, helps families avoid eviction or utility shutoff and take their first steps toward independence.

**Strengthened by CDBG Funding to Serve
CDBG Funding to Serve Tarrant County Families**

In 2025, we are expanding our impact through Bridges Out of Poverty – Getting Ahead, a 16-week initiative equipping participants with tools to escape generational poverty. With over ten partner agencies, we also connect clients to financial counseling, employment resources, and ESL classes.

As Mayor Chris Fletcher of Burleson and a former board member says, "Harvest House is a trusted organization that consistently delivers on its promises." With the support of CDBG funding and our community partners, we remain dedicated to helping families not just survive—but thrive.

