

## 18. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Huntington is committed to serving the people, businesses, and non-profit organizations in the greater Chicagoland area. From driving the local economy with first-rate financial services, to donating time and money toward local causes, Huntington is dedicated to helping this corner of the world thrive.

Huntington has a long and distinguished history of supporting programs throughout Chicago and its suburbs, designed to enrich the community. The breadth and depth of these community efforts range from multimillion-dollar programs aimed at the revitalization of major parts of cities to the individual volunteer efforts of Huntington associates at all levels of the company. These programs are innovative and creative, and thanks to the partnership between Huntington and local governments and nonprofits, they help solve area issues.

Through our prior Community Plans, Huntington has assisted more than 14,000 first-time home buyers, invested or lent \$962 million creating 8,693 units of affordable housing, and in total provided more than \$22.7 billion in community development programs and products, loans, and investments to meet needs across its footprint.

With Huntington's Corporate-wide 5-year Community Plan, we're addressing social, racial, environmental, and economic inequities in minority and under-represented communities. Our purpose of looking out for people guides us to be a catalyst for positive change and to ensure underserved consumers and businesses have the access to capital, affordable housing and other resources to live healthier lives, achieve their goals and to pursue their dreams.

The Community Plan addresses five key areas of need identified through conversations with community partners, including members of NCRC, colleagues and customers:

- Racial and Social Equity
- Consumer and Home Lending
- Business Banking
- Community Development Lending and Investing
- Philanthropic Giving and Other Support

We intend to accomplish this by leveraging our existing loan and investment programs, expanding them based on partner feedback, with a focused effort on serving specific needs within minority and under-resourced communities. We will create new products and programs to meet community needs and we will enhance marketing and communication of progress.

Huntington empowers our geographic markets to engage locally. We understand that each community faces its own unique economic security, social and racial equity challenges. These challenges are dynamic and we understand that we must work with our partners to help address the needs in the communities we serve. To that end, we have a dedicated team of Community Development Relationship Managers who are charged with developing meaningful relationships with community partners, governmental entities and racially and ethnically diverse organizations such as Chambers, Urban Leagues, and faith-based organizations. We commit to working directly with partner groups in our regions as we build our 2021 Community Plan Strategy and to meet at least annually with partner groups to ensure that Huntington is positioned to understand current needs. Huntington's Regional Presidents and their Community Development Relationship Managers will continue to serve as the core for building relationships, driving engagement, and delivering solutions in their markets.

The Community Plan outlines the goals Huntington has developed to address the identified needs of under-resourced communities and small businesses and commits to \$40 billion, throughout its entire footprint, in investments and loans over a five-year period beginning June 1, 2021.

As outlined in the Community Plan pillars, of the \$40 billion, Huntington is committing \$16 billion for the purpose of meeting the needs of diverse borrowers and communities. As a result of these and other activities, Huntington expects that its home lending to Black, Latinx, American Indian/Alaskan Natives, and Asian-American/Pacific Islander borrowers and businesses operating in MMTs will increase meaningfully for each group over the Plan Period. Huntington will regularly evaluate its lending and if any such segment has not experienced a meaningful increase, Huntington will develop a plan to enhance its lending to the relevant segment. Since inception of Huntington's community Plan our commitment to the Chicago MD continues to be a focus.

#### Home Lending

- Huntington committed to providing \$24 billion in affordable mortgage lending; \$12 billion is committed to meeting the needs of diverse and under-resourced populations. \$2.4 billion has been originated in affordable mortgage lending to the Chicago MD

#### Small Business

- Huntington expanded its Small Business lending programs into its new footprint and committed \$10 billion over five years; \$2 billion is focused on lending to business owners from diverse backgrounds. With that, \$318 million has been originated in the Chicago MD

#### Community Development Lending & Investing

- Huntington is dedicated to increasing the availability of capital to historically under-resourced people, businesses, and communities. \$315 million has been originated in the Chicago MD since community plan inception.

#### Donations

- Huntington is a proud supporter of initiatives that support financial education, affordable housing, food security, workforce development, and social equity. \$2 million in donations has been awarded to the Chicago MD to support these initiatives

## KEY INITIATIVES

### FOOD SECURITY

In every county across the U.S., thousands of hardworking families struggle to put food on their tables. From volunteering at food banks to providing meals to the homeless, colleagues across Huntington's footprint have worked with community partners to help provide members of the community with healthy food options. Huntington began working with the food bank during the height of COVID-19 and continues to provide financial support for the Greater Chicago Food Depository and the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

For the past 10 years, Huntington has supported the Chicago Summer Business Institute (CSBI), a paid summer internship program for Chicago area high school students. The CSBI matches local high school students from low-to-moderate income families with leading companies to provide meaningful summer jobs and expose them to professional life in the financial services sector. During their time with the companies, participants gain skills that will transfer to college and into their future careers.

Participation in this program provided students an opportunity to experience a paid summer internship that could help further their careers after high school. The exposure gained through this program will help students make better career choices. Additionally, working in a professional setting offered the interns a sense of what working would be like after college: the challenges, the responsibilities, and the feeling of accomplishment from a job well done.

Huntington has been a long-time supporter of the Association House of Chicago, who facilitates financial careers training (FCT) for low-to-moderate income individuals. FCT is designed to reduce barriers to employment and economic mobility, especially for Black and Latino(a)/x community members and provide training, certification, and job readiness so that community members are prepared for entry level positions in the financial industry that pay a living wage and offer benefits as well as opportunities for career advancement. Participants complete an 8-week training using BankWork\$ curriculum while also receiving financial literacy workshops, budgeting and credit counseling, and career navigation. Participants obtain a Universal Banker Certificate, an industry-recognized credential through the American Bankers Association (ABA). Upon completion of the training period, participants take partake in a graduation and hiring fair where they are introduced to potential employers and placed in full-time positions.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

At Huntington, we strive to make people's lives better and strengthen the communities we serve. As such, we always look for opportunities to support the very people who keep our economies afloat. Huntington regularly engages in product development activities, and Huntington Home for Good is a result of our continuous efforts to identify ways to expand affordable, sustainable access to homeownership to all consumers it serves.

Huntington mortgage lenders partner with various HUD Certified agencies and their HUD certified counselors to deliver homeownership educational workshops. Our Mortgage Loan Officers have partnered with local organizations, helping them deliver upon their mission to achieve meaningful and lasting diversity in Oak Park and within the city of Chicago closely aligns with Huntington's endeavor to support racial and social equity initiatives and enrich the lives of low to moderate-income households

through homeownership. They work tirelessly to promote and sustain diverse communities through proactive programming that leverages an individual's action to affect long-lasting structural and familial change. While working to provide open housing for all, their programming is primarily designed to serve the needs of low- to moderate-income people of color and other groups protected by civil rights and fair housing laws.

Earlier this year, Huntington National Bank launched a new home mortgage product that helps historically under-resourced communities. Our Home for Good product is a direct reflection of Huntington's purpose to make people's lives better and strengthen the communities we serve. It complements the bank's current mortgage programs while helping build generational wealth through homeownership in historically under-resourced communities. Home for Good provides equitable access to credit for people who may have encountered barriers to fulfilling their dreams of homeownership.

Thanks to the recently launched Huntington Home for Good lending product, which is designed to support applicants in historically under-resourced communities, an Illinois mother-daughter duo has achieved their dream of homeownership.

When a Huntington customer's father passed away, buying a home was the last thing on her mind. After saving all year, the consumer and her mother decided to give it a shot. She applied for a mortgage loan with a different lender and quickly learned that she did not qualify. That's when she turned to North West Housing Partnership, a Chicago nonprofit, for help.

The nonprofit gave our Huntington Mortgage Loan Officer a call and connected her with their client. Our Home Lending Mortgage Officers regularly speaks with non-profit HUD counseling agencies on topics like financial literacy, homeownership, and Huntington's mortgage products and resources.

Our Mortgage Lending Officer introduced the NWHP client to the Home for Good product and was able to help this mother-daughter duo buy a home, cover much of their closing costs, and qualify them for an additional \$2,000 grant.

Huntington Bank also offers innovative lending programs, including those that assist under-resourced groups of customers. Huntington Bank's proprietary Community Access Mortgage loan program assists LMI borrowers or borrowers in LMI communities to purchase or refinance residences by allowing higher loan-to-value ratios, no purchased mortgage insurance ("PMI") requirement and no interest rate adjustment for lower credit scores. In addition, Huntington Bank offers its Consumer First Mortgage program, which is designed to provide a convenient, low-cost refinancing of a residence and/or cash-out option with no PMI requirements.

Huntington Bank also actively participates in a variety of national and state-based mortgage lending programs designed to assist LMI individuals and LMI or diverse communities, including Veterans Administration (VA), Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Cincinnati Federal Home Loan Bank, USDA and Fannie Mae mortgage programs.

## **FINANCIAL EDUCATION**

At Huntington, we are guided by our purpose of looking out for people—and as always, our priority is the safety and security of our customers, colleagues, and communities. Many people are feeling financial uncertainty at this time and our financial empowerment programs can help protect people from fraud and scams and promote financial wellbeing. Huntington is committed to driving economic

empowerments for all. We are proud to partner with Junior Achievement (JA) and other organizations to help educate critical audiences.

In Chicago, colleagues taught Junior Achievement (JA) curriculum that included financial skills-building activities to low-income students. Volunteers from various bank segments teach students about distinguishing a need from a want, making money-smart decisions, creating a business, career readiness and job-hunting skills. Colleagues across the footprint gather to provide financial education to students at various elementary, middle, and high school students across Illinois. The financial education presentations provided pre-K through 12th grade students with an introduction to topics ranging from financial basics to entrepreneurship. These lessons have proven effective, with more than 80% of JA alums indicating their experience made them think of new work experiences or career paths. As one teacher shared, "...the day was about personal interactions that helped students learn about the business world outside of school."

Huntington colleagues host senior adult financial empowerment interactive workshops in partnership with Mercy Housing Lakefront (MHL) and their residential case managers. These workshops include tips to help keep Seniors and their money safe. Topics covered will be avoiding financial exploitation, guarding against identity theft, planning for unexpected life events, preparing for financial disasters, helpful resources on managing money, understanding common scams, importance of smart money decisions and reporting financial exploitation.

## LIFT LOCAL

Huntington now provides a new loan option with longer-terms, overdraft fee relief, and waived fees so that all business owners from all walks of life, backgrounds, ethnicities, and experiences can succeed in their industry. Huntington is well-versed in the unique challenges faced by woman-, veteran-, and racially and ethnically diverse-owned businesses.

### Features:

- Qualify for loan amounts from \$1,000-%150,000
- Access to capital at a low cost to your business
- Zero origination fees
- Huntington pays your SBA fees
- Lower credit score requirements
- Free financial education courses (\$1,500 value) powered by Operation Hope
- No monthly service fee checking account† with 24-Hour Grace® overdraft and return fee relief††
- Longer repayment terms to help avoid high payments in uncertain times

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†We will begin waiving the \$20 Monthly Account Service Fee on your Unlimited Business Checking Account in the month you close on your loan under our Community Plan. This fee waiver will continue for thirty-six months or as long as you have an outstanding loan balance, whichever comes first. Only the Account Monthly Service Fee is waived and all other account charges apply as outlined on the Business Account Charges Form.

††Your account will be closed if it is negative by any amount for 60 days, including if your account is overdrawn within our \$50 Safety Zone. Learn more at [huntington.com/BusinessSafetyZone](https://www.huntington.com/BusinessSafetyZone) and [huntington.com/BusinessGrace](https://www.huntington.com/BusinessGrace). The 24-Hour Grace system and method is patented: U.S. Pat No. 8,364,581, 8,781,955, 10,475,118, and others pending.

Huntington has conducted several Lift Local Business events through the following partners:

- Sunshine Enterprises

- Oak Park Regional Housing Center
- Chicago Community Loan Fund
- Womens Business Development Center

Huntington has also supported several agencies that distribute food to low-to-moderate income households:

- Greater Chicago Food Depository
- Northern Illinois Food Bank
- Nourishing Hope (Formerly, Lakeview Food Pantry)

## **SMALL BUSINESS**

As an extension of Huntington's Lift Local Business program, the bank partners with nonprofit organizations across the footprint to execute Small Business Seeds for Growth entrepreneurial events. These events provide an opportunity for small business owners and community members to learn more about starting and growing a business, leveraging support resources, and understanding local pathways to capital.

On December 4, 2024, Huntington is hosting a “Small Business Seeds for Growth” event in Chicago for small business owners and entrepreneurs that will be entirely in Spanish. The event will include information on access to capital resources, loan information, panel discussions, small business pitches and networking for attendees.

As an SBA lender, Huntington Bank offers additional loan opportunities for its small business customers. Huntington is the nation’s largest originator, by volume, of SBA 7(a) loans for the third consecutive year at the close of the SBA fiscal year 2021, Huntington Bank also marked the 13th year in a row as the largest originator, by volume, of SBA 7(a) loans in its footprint. Huntington Bank participates in the following SBA-guaranteed loan programs: (1) the SBA 7(a) program, through which loans are provided to start, acquire or expand small businesses, and SBA 7(a) (Express), which provides expedited processing for such loans up to \$350,000; and (2) the SBA 504 program, in which banks partner with a local Certified Development Company to provide long-term, fixed-rate financing to small businesses for fixed assets and real estate. Huntington Bank also processed more than 47,000 PPP loans in 2021 and 35,000 in 2020.

Local Huntington Bank bankers making SBA loans are supported by full-time dedicated SBA lending specialists and a full-time SBA credit and operations shop of over 100 colleagues dedicated to this specialty financing. In 2020, Huntington also launched Huntington Lift Local for Business, offering a suite of products for minority, female, veteran and LMI/MMT business owners. This program offers access to capital via a low-cost SBA lending product, free business checking and treasury services, as well as free financial education to qualified business owners who otherwise would not have access to these types of programs and services.

## **RACIAL & SOCIAL EQUITY**

Huntington placed special emphasis on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives within Illinois, to strengthen customers, businesses and organizations that represent diverse demographics and to advance meaningful and systemic change.

Huntington supports LISC Chicago YIELD initiative. The goal of Yield is to build capacity of commercial real estate developers of color in Chicago; support local wealth creation; and help bring visions of authentic neighborhood projects to fruition in south and west side Chicago communities. Yield provides customized coaching on each developer's proposed commercial real estate development project(s); a learning network of peers and handpicked advisors from across Chicago's commercial real estate development industry; presentations and technical trainings on key topics; and special access to professional resources via a complimentary ULI membership and subsidized course offerings.

Huntington has been a longtime supporter of the Housing Action Illinois Career Path Program. Housing Action, in partnership with the National Housing Resource Center (NHRC), launched the Housing Counseling Career Path—a career training and recruitment project with a mission-driven message of service and social equity, targeting recruits who represent communities served, providing an immersive workforce training program, and for those who pass the federally-mandated certification exam, employment opportunities and placement with high-impact counseling agencies throughout Illinois and the nation. working with partners, including UNIDOS US, to recruit participants. Their recruitment efforts have also focused on students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), as well as Chicago-area colleges. In addition, we continue to work with housing counseling agencies to engage with past clients, with the goal of cultivating a workforce that represents the diverse communities within Illinois.



## OUR COMMUNITY

Huntington is a full-service banking provider primarily operating across Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Our extended/national products provide for the specialized financial requirements of our customers throughout the United States.

Our “Welcome” philosophy centers around deep relationship-building capabilities to best meet each customer’s specific needs.

Your people make your business successful. Let us be part of that team. Like the individuals who work for you, your business needs are unique to your industry, your region, your size, and so much more. We take time to get to know your business as well as you do so we can help you achieve your goals, financial or otherwise.

## LOOKING OUT FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Huntington has committed to a five-year, \$40 billion Strategic Community Plan to strengthen small businesses and foster economic justice throughout our footprint.

### Racial & Social Equity

Allocate significant dollars to minority borrowers and communities to advance meaningful and systemic change

### Community Development Lending & Investing

\$6.5 billion commitment in loans and investments to establish programs and services that foster equity in affordable housing, small business financing, and community services; \$2 billion will focus on minority initiatives

### Home & Consumer Lending

Affordable housing and consumer lending goal of \$24 billion; \$12 billion is committed to meeting the needs of minority and under-resourced populations

### Small Business

Expand lending programs into our new footprint and commit \$10 billion; \$2 billion will focus on lending to minority-owned businesses or businesses operating in majority-minority communities





## BUILDING ECONOMICALLY INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

Huntington invested **\$11.2 billion** toward a **\$16 billion** commitment in loans and investments to establish programs and services that foster social equity in areas such as affordable housing, small-business financing, community services, and environmental equity

**\$1,884,400** toward community development loans supporting affordable housing

**1,857 families** in mortgage distress assisted through the Home Savers program in 2023

**\$27.3 billion** invested in our communities as part of Huntington's five-year, **\$40 billion** Community Plan

**#1 originator in SBA 7(a) loans** for the sixth consecutive year and the 15<sup>th</sup> straight year leading all financial institutions in our footprint

Made progress towards

**50% reduction** of our electricity sourcing from renewables by 2035

LiftLocal Business program provided **\$101 million** in lending, as well as business planning support, free financial and entrepreneurial courses, and other services to minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses

As of December 2023, our Community Plan investments have helped nearly

**150,000 businesses and families**

**243 ENERGY STAR-certified bank branches**, comprising 59% of all ENERGY STAR-certified bank branches across the county

## AWARD HIGHLIGHTS



America's Most Responsible Companies 2023 (4th consecutive year)



2023 Training APEX Awards winner (4th consecutive year)



Ranked highest regionally in the 2023 U.S. Banking Mobile App Satisfaction Study (5th consecutive year)



Corporate Equality Index for LGBTQ+-inclusive workplace policies, benefits, & practices (10th consecutive year)

SBA Source: SBA loans subject to SBA eligibility. SBA 7(a) loans from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2022. SBA 7(a) lender in the region made up of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2021 and the region made up of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Colorado, and Wisconsin from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. APEX Source: <https://trainingmag.com/training-magazine-ranks-the-winners-of-the-2023-training-apex-awards/> J.D. Power Source: Huntington received the highest score among regional banks (\$70B to \$200B in deposits) for the fifth consecutive year in the J.D. Power U.S. Banking Mobile App Satisfaction Study, which measures customer satisfaction with financial institutions' mobile applications for banking account management. HRC Source: <https://www.hrc.org/resources/corporate-equality-index>