

FAST FACTS ON CRA BENEFITS

Federal banking regulators recently released a proposal to “modernize” the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), which requires banks to help meet the credit needs of low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities. Thanks to Chicago activists, the CRA passed in 1977 in response to discriminatory bank lending, known as “redlining.” The 2019 proposed rules would radically change how CRA is implemented, threatening the future of LMI communities.

Under current CRA requirements,
in 2018 alone banks nationally have
invested:

- Almost \$225 billion toward community development efforts in 2018.
- About \$63 billion in small business loans to businesses in LMI areas in 2018.



At present, three banks in Illinois are implementing community development plans valued at over \$51 billion, which were negotiated thanks to the CRA.

Over \$1 trillion dollars
have been invested in LMI
communities since 1996 as a result of the CRA.