Enterprise is a leading advocate for the Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing (Section 4) program. Over the past 10 years, Enterprise has distributed approximately $80 million in Section 4 grants and loans to more than 900 local nonprofit organizations across 48 states and Puerto Rico. These organizations develop affordable housing, finance small businesses, revitalize commercial corridors, and help address local health care, child care, education and safety needs.

Section 4 is the only federal program that is exclusively focused on increasing the effectiveness of these organizations. Through grants, loans, training and guidance, Section 4 provides local organizations with the staffing, program development and financial resources to maximize the impact of the services they provide and ensure the long-term sustainability of their investments.

With Section 4, organizations develop core skills that strengthen their ability to implement HUD programs, raise capital for community development and affordable housing, coordinate on cross-programmatic, place-based approaches, and facilitate knowledge sharing.

**Spotlight on Section 4 Grantee: Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council, Inc.**

Since 1965, Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council, Inc. (C-SCDC), a community action agency in Fort Smith, Arkansas, has worked to improve the lives of low-income individuals, families and the communities in which they live. C-SCDC has injected over $8 million into the local economy and has been supported by over 1,600 volunteers.

C-SCDC provides many services for the local community, including homeownership and asset development, a childcare food program, an emergency food and shelter program, and dental services. C-SCDC also partners with organizations, such as the River Valley Regional Food Bank, to provide assistance to the community’s most vulnerable families and individuals.

**Local challenge**

For many rural communities in Arkansas, housing quality is a significant challenge. Far too many rural individuals and families – including seniors and people with disabilities – live in substandard housing, without sufficient heat, running water or safe facilities.

Despite the significant need for housing rehabilitation in the region, C-SCDC’s efforts to address substandard housing were limited by its small staff. Prior to receiving a Section 4 grant, C-SCDC only had one employee working half-time in its housing rehabilitation program. With such limited capacity, C-SCDC did not have enough staff to properly serve the more than 40 elderly and disabled households on its waiting lists or expand its housing programs.
How Section 4 funds were used

In 2014, a $50,000 Section 4 grant allowed C-SCDC to hire a new housing development officer with expertise in construction, electrical work and grant writing. With this additional staff member, C-SCDC was not only able to address the needs of the senior and disabled households on its home rehabilitation program’s waiting list, but the organization was able to add another full-time employee. This allowed C-SCDC to increase its production and expand its new programs.

In turn, Karen Phillips, C-SCDC’s deputy director/Housing and Asset Development Center director, was able to focus more of her time on the organization’s multifamily housing development efforts. As a result, C-SCDC was awarded $630,000 in HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) funding and $589,000 in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit) equity – the organization’s first Housing Credit award!

Overall, the Section 4 investment helped build C-SCDC’s capacity, enabling it to secure more than $1.6 million in additional federal resources – $1 million more than it received the previous year.

How Section 4 funds enhanced capacity of organization

Enterprise provided Section 4 funds to help C-SCDC’s Housing and Asset Development Department reconstruct two beautiful homes and replace a manufactured home.

Inside the original manufactured home, the floors had deteriorated and the water tank leaked. It was imperative to get the family living there into a more reliable structure. With the help of Enterprise, C-SCDC was able to build a clean, energy-efficient home with handicap accessibility for the family.

The Section 4 grant helped C-SCDC get its first Housing Credit project approved, which will allow the organization to continue to provide affordable housing and services for the local community. The project will include 41 single-family homes with garages and other amenities in Van Buren, Arkansas, a rural town east of Fort Smith. Affordable family housing is very difficult to find, which leaves many families with few options. As a result, the single-family units will benefit this area for many years to come.

For more information about this project, please contact: Russ Kaney, 608.825.9267, rkaney@enterprisecommunity.org.

For more information about the Section 4 program, please contact: Sarah Mickelson, 202.649.3903, smickelson@enterprisecommunity.org.