

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION IN
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, AND DES MOINES, IOWA:
THE EFFECTS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

An Abstract of a Thesis
Presented to
the Department of Geography at
Western Illinois University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

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June 1985

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ABSTRACT

This research assesses the existence of neighborhood spillovers, incumbent upgrading or gentrification, and neighborhood confidence in areas of housing rehabilitation under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Previous related research has largely concentrated on programs that provide either newly constructed units or extensively rehabilitated a few single structures within an area. This study builds on past research by testing for the extent of neighborhood spillovers in areas with more dispersed and less visible housing rehabilitation programs.

Generally, the findings of this study reinforce the pessimistic conclusions of previous research to the claim that housing programs provide neighborhood spillover benefits. No evidence of a gentrified population and only negligible neighborhood benefits were found in 10 Springfield, Illinois; and Des Moines, Iowa; study areas. However, the CDBG housing rehabilitation program was very successful in generating and building neighborhood confidence, and a psychological image of the future quality of the neighborhood among program participants in all 10 study areas.