DON'T BANK ON IT

Banks are supposed to help provide...

...local bank branches and affordable products
...support for community facilities & organizations
...affordable housing & quality jobs
...and affordable home and small business loans

Did you know that banks are supposed to invest in your community?

But that doesn't always happen.

The Responsible Banking Act can help us hold banks accountable to our neighborhoods. But only if we make our voices heard!
How can we make sure banks meet the needs of our communities?

The Responsible Banking Act

The City of New York does more than $150 billion dollars in business every year. Every one of those dollars has to pass through a bank. The Responsible Banking Act helps the city use the power of that money to encourage banks to invest responsibly in all our neighborhoods. But it only works if you participate!

It all starts with the Community Investment Advisory Board (CIAB) which gathers data, holds hearings to get public input, and publishes what they find out.

Who’s on the Board?

The Board creates two reports: one about community needs—the Needs Assessment—and another about how banks are responding to those needs—the Annual Report.

Speak Up!
Talk to your friends & neighbors about banks and community needs. Join a community organization! Attend local meetings!

Use these questions to help you participate in the Public Hearings

Information like this will help the Board understand your community’s needs and how banks are addressing them.

New York City should do more business with RESPONSIBLE BANKS!!

The NYC Banking Commission will get the two CIAB reports to help them understand which banks are meeting community needs.

The NYC Banking Commission decides which banks are allowed to hold city deposits.

The Banking Commission is made up of

City Council Speaker who also appoints Community Organization Representative Small Business Representative Commissioner Mayor who also appoints Finance Commissioner HPD Commissioner Banking Representative

How can we make sure banks meet the needs of our communities?

- Do banks have enough branches in your neighborhood?
- Do banks provide the services you need and can afford?
- Do banks offer services with unfairly high fees or requirements that are harmful to you and your community?
- Do banks participate in programs to reach New Yorkers who don’t have access to bank accounts?
- Do bank employees speak your language?
- Do banks serve immigrants?
- What more can banks do to better serve your community?

Bank Branches and Services

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Renters and Affordable Housing

- Is your apartment building in bad condition?
- Does your neighborhood need more affordable housing?
- Do banks lend to landlords who harass and evict people?
- Do banks invest in efforts to build and preserve affordable housing?

Homeowners

- Do you own a home or want to own a home?
- Do banks foreclose on lots of homes in your neighborhood?
- Do banks help people stay in their homes with things like loan modifications, principal reductions, and foreclosure prevention services?
- Do banks help people become homeowners by offering loans and supporting first-time home buyer programs?
- Do banks make all home loans fairly?

Nonprofits and Community Services

- Do banks support your local nonprofits with loans, products, or volunteers?
- Do banks invest in other community facilities and services your neighborhood needs?
- Do banks make grants to community organizations?

Jobs

- Are there enough jobs for people in your neighborhood?
- Do banks offer services and make loans to small businesses?
- Do banks lend to organizations and programs that support small businesses?
- Do banks invest in and support programs to create and keep good jobs?

Give Feedback About How Individual Banks Are Helping Your Community

- Which banks are doing positive things for your neighborhood and the city, and why?
- Which banks are NOT doing positive things for your neighborhood and the city and why?
- What is your reaction to what banks reported doing and what they plan to do for your community?

Raise The Bar!
The Responsible Banking Act is our tool to push banks to

- Invest in affordable housing
- Stop lending to bad landlords
- Help people avoid or deal with foreclosure
- Open bank branches and help people get accounts
- Offer financial products for our communities
- Support small business and job creation
- Support nonprofits and other community resources

To find out key dates, connect to a community organization, and get involved, contact ANHD: www.ANHD.org

How was New York City’s last Needs Assessment?

The Responsible Banking Act was passed in 2012. It requires banks to hold hearings in each city council district to get information about how banks are serving specific areas, like NYC’s diverse people and neighborhoods.

New York City’s last Needs Assessment was done in 2016. It includes data from banks on what they did in the previous year to meet community needs. In 2017, the Community Investment Advisory Board (CIAB) published what it found out.

How can you participate in the 2019 Needs Assessment?

Start by talking to your friends and neighbors about banks and community needs. Join a community organization! Attend local meetings! Get involved by giving feedback about how individual banks are helping your community. Tell the Board if and how banks are meeting the needs of your community.

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WelcometoCUP.org

Responsive Banking Act

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Do Banks Invest Responsibly in Your Neighborhood?

If they hold city money, they should.

**What Does irresponsible Banking Look Like?**
Here, banks are destabilizing the neighborhood by: making loans to bad landlords who harass and evict tenants; not providing loans or assistance to first-time home buyers or small business owners; not helping people facing foreclosure; making it hard or expensive to get bank accounts; and not supporting efforts to create and preserve affordable housing, good jobs, and community services.

**What Does Responsible Banking Look Like?**
Here, banks help stabilize the neighborhood by: making responsible loans to businesses, homeowners, and fair landlords; providing affordable bank services and products (like checking accounts with low or no fees); and supporting efforts to create and preserve affordable housing, good jobs, and community services.

Make the Responsible Banking Act a Success: Participate!

This is your chance to demonstrate real community needs and show which banks are and are not acting responsibly in your community.

1. **Organize**
   - Talk to your friends and neighbors about banks and community needs.
   - Join a community organization.
   - Attend local meetings.

2. **Show Up**
   - There is strength in numbers! Get the word out and encourage others to get involved!
   - Make comments at the public hearings (or in writing) about your community needs and how banks are responding.

3. **Speak Up**
   - It’s great to see so many local businesses around here.
   - I just got a job here.
   - I have places to turn to because banks are making grants to local community-based organizations.

Ask ANHD
Find out how you can connect to a community organization.
www.AHND.org
In 2012 New York City passed a law called The Responsible Banking Act (RBA) to help make sure banks are meeting local community needs. The RBA gives NYC a way to evaluate bank activities and their community reinvestment plans. It also gives you a chance to speak up about your community's needs, how banks are responding, and how banks can improve. Read this guide to find out how the RBA works and how you can get involved!