

As of January 1, 2022, Iris Coleman Payne retired as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Director for the North Carolina Department of Commerce. She had been in this position for the past four years managing the CDBG Program as well as the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program until the Disaster Recovery Program was moved to another state agency. Under Ms. Payne's management at Commerce is the CDBG Program, CDBG CV and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. This includes approximately \$402,900,000 in grants awarded over several years.

Prior to Ms. Payne becoming CDBG Director, she was the CDBG Section Chief and previously Program Development Specialist. In more than 30 years of service Ms. Payne has risen through the ranks to become a well-respected manager who leads by example and motivates her team to do the same. As our state faced a once in a generation challenge brought on by COVID-19, Ms. Payne calmly led her team as they quickly and effectively stood up vital new programs with federal CARES Act 2020 funding. One of those new initiatives, North Carolina's CDBG-Corona Virus grant program, was one of the first in the country to be implemented, giving communities across our state access to critical resources that supported their recovery efforts. Ms. Payne, through her leadership, was a catalyst for that success.

Her 30-year tenure also includes eight years of employment with the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency as Senior Loan Underwriter. There she led a staff of approximately 10 employees and assisted thousands of first-time homebuyers achieve the greatest American Dream of home ownership. She was also able to work with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a much-deserved family. In addition, Iris has served on the NCCDA Meetings Committee, always willing to provide training at conferences. Housing for low to moderate families has always been her passion, and she would like to use the skillsets gained from working in the private mortgage sector for fifteen years along with 30 years of community development at the state level to continue that work after retirement.



Iris C. Payne,
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Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
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