

Call Your Senators on September 20; Ask them to Responsibly Fund the CDBG and HOME Programs!

The Senate Appropriations Committee is set to markup the FY 2012 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill on Wednesday, September 21, where members of the committee will make important funding decisions for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the HOME Investment Partnership Program. The CDBG Coalition is asking CDBG and HOME grantees and their sub-recipients and partners to call-in to their Senators' offices and ask them to responsibly fund CDBG and HOME in the FY12 budget. Although we were successful in having CDBG formula funding increased in the House Appropriations Subcommittee to \$3.5 billion, the Senate Transportation-HUD Subcommittee today recommended a funding level of \$2.85 billion in formula funding for CDBG in FY12, a cut of \$435 million from last year. Furthermore, the Senate Subcommittee on Transportation-HUD recommended only \$1 billion in formula funding for HOME in FY12, a \$600 million cut to the program.

Don't let these cuts become reality-- call your Senator's office on September 20 and ask them to responsibly fund the CDBG and HOME program!

Tips and talking points when calling your Senator's office:

Making the Call

- First, to find your Senator's contact information visit:
http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm.
- When you call your Senator's office, *ask to speak with the staff person who handles housing issues for the Senator.*
- Once you are connected to the correct staff person (or if you are connected to their voice mail) identify yourself, organization and location. Let them know you are calling to voice your support for the CDBG and HOME program given that the Senate Appropriations Committee is marking up the Transportation-HUD bill on September 21.

What to Say

- Talking Points on CDBG:
 - **Let them know the \$2.85 billion in CDBG formula funding approved by the Senate Transportation-HUD Subcommittee is inadequate.**

Ask the Senator to support \$3.9 billion in formula funding for CDBG in the FY12 budget (this will restore the program to its FY10 formula level) and ask them to directly convey their support to Senate Appropriations Chair Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-MS).

Ask the Senator to oppose any reduction in the CDBG administration and planning cap. Let them know what a 50% reduction in the cap (from 20% to 10% as proposed by the House

Transportation-HUD Subcommittee) would do to the administration and planning capabilities of your CDBG program.

- Talking Points on HOME:

- Let them know the \$1 billion in formula funding approved by the Senate Transportation-HUD Subcommittee is inadequate.

Please ask the Senator to restore funding for the HOME program to \$1.825 billion (the FY10 level) and ask them to convey their support for this program to Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-MS).

As they make tough budget decisions, now more than ever legislators want to hear from their constituents about what programs matter to their communities. As the old saying goes, “the squeaky wheel gets the oil.” This adage holds true for conveying the importance of CDBG and HOME and the importance of responsibly funding both programs in FY12. **Contact your Senators on September 20; ask them to responsibly fund the CDBG and HOME program in FY 2012.**