

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of countless stakeholders and beneficiaries of the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), the undersigned members of the CDBG Coalition write to express our appreciation to Members of Congress for 40 years of unfailing bipartisan support for CDBG. To mark this important milestone in the U.S. intergovernmental partnership, the co-chairs of the Congressional Urban Caucus, Representatives Chaka Fattah (D-PA) and Michael Turner (R-OH) and a bipartisan group of supporters including Representative McGovern (D-MA), Barletta (R-PA), Brady (D-PA), and Gibson (R-NY) have introduced **H.Res. 668, Supporting the goals and ideals of the Community Development Block Grant program**. We urge every Member of Congress who represents one of the approximately 7000 cities, towns, and counties that CDBG reaches annually to recognize the positive legacy of CDBG by cosponsoring this resolution.

Since its enactment by President Ford on August 22, 1974, the CDBG program has become the preeminent intergovernmental grant in our federalist system of government by making each level of government a stakeholder in quality-of-life at the neighborhood level; and by holding grantees accountable for demonstrating measurable improvements in economically distressed communities and for vulnerable populations. Moreover, CDBG has remained one of the most flexible federal grants, making it indispensable for local projects ranging from the maintenance and protection of affordable housing to improvements of essential public infrastructure and water systems. And the CDBG model of cost-sharing for local projects is so effective that other federal programs have adopted it, including federal disaster assistance and recovery grants.

More recently, the CDBG program proved effective for local efforts to overcome the home foreclosure crisis and subsequent national economic downturn, serving in many instances as a crucial source of gap funding for projects and services that otherwise would have been cut from local budgets. Today, in addition to housing and infrastructure, CDBG is supporting economic development efforts that lead to much-needed job creation.

The facts bear it out:

- Every CDBG dollar invested leverages, on average, \$4.00 in other funds;
- Between 2005 and 2013, CDBG funding helped to create or retain approximately 330,500 jobs;
- And between 2005 and 2013, CDBG funded public services to over 100 million people in need and assisted more than 1 million households;

Given the reach of CDBG grants and the opportunity created by them, we are confident that nearly all, if not every, Congressional district bears a benefit or improvement made possible by CDBG funding. If there is any question, the members of the CDBG coalition are ready to provide specifics to any Congressional office.

Again, we thank Congress for 40 years of consistent support for the CDBG program and urge every Member of Congress to recognize the 40th anniversary of CDBG by cosponsoring **H.Res. 668, Supporting the goals and ideals of the Community Development Block Grant program**. To cosponsor, contact Representative Fattah's office at jared.bass@mail.house.gov; x54001 or Representative Turner's office at vince.erfe@mail.house.gov x56465.

Sincerely,

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coalition:

U.S. Conference of Mayors

National Association of Counties

National League of Cities

National Community Development Association

National Association of County Community and Economic Development

National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies

Council of State Community Development Agencies

National Association of Development Organizations

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials

National Rural Housing Coalition

Rebuilding Together

YWCA USA

National Urban League

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Habitat for Humanity International

International Economic Development Council

Feeding America

American Planning Association