



November 5, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Collins, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Diaz-Balart, and Ranking Member Price:

The undersigned national organizations of local elected officials, housing and community development professionals, planners, economic development professionals, and non-profit organizations, collectively known as the Community Development Block Grant Coalition, thank you for your leadership and support of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. We are grateful for your advocacy and unwavering support of the program this year.

Both CDBG and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program have each been cut by nearly \$1 billion since FY 2010. The federal investment provided by the programs is important; creating jobs, leveraging dollars, and adding to the overall GDP. The funding reductions have eroded these accomplishments, however, and State and local governments have sustained shortfalls in meeting their local community development needs. The consequences of the reductions are real: fewer jobs, fewer services, fewer businesses assisted, fewer public improvements, and fewer affordable housing units. CDBG and HOME are critical to communities – rural, suburban, and urban; providing a flexible source of funding to use in devising local solutions to prevent physical, economic, and social deterioration in communities across the nation. CDBG and HOME make their way into the local economy through an extensive network of non-profit organizations and local contractors and businesses and remain a lifeline for families and communities.

Based on the data that grantees have reported to HUD over the past ten years (FY05-FY14), the CDBG program has created/retained 353,237 jobs during this time period. For every \$1.00 of CDBG investment, another \$4.07 in private and public dollars is leveraged. Since the start of the program in 1974, CDBG has invested over \$135 billion in local economies. Likewise, every \$1.00 of HOME funds leverages another \$4.16 in non-HOME funds. In addition, the HOME program has completed over one million affordable housing units including nearly 493,000 units for new home buyers, over 230,000 units for owner-occupied rehabilitations, and over 464,000 rental housing units. These programs are the building blocks for community development efforts; attracting other investment, providing gap funding, and acting as the catalyst for project development.

These programs are needed by communities and important to local economies. Thank you for your continued support of the CDBG program and we urge you to provide at least \$3.3 billion in formula funding for CDBG and no less than \$1.106 billion for HOME in the FY 2016 budget.

Thank you for your leadership and support of these critical programs.

Sincerely,

The CDBG Coalition

American Planning Association

Council of State Community Development Agencies

Feeding America

Habitat for Humanity International

Housing Assistance Council

International Economic Development Council

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

National Association for County Community and Economic Development

National Association of Counties

National Association of Development Organizations

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials

National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies

National Association of Regional Councils

National Community Development Association

National League of Cities

National Recreation and Park Association

National Rural Housing Coalition

National Urban League

Rebuilding Together

U.S. Conference of Mayors

YWCA USA

