

CDBG Briefing

Press Release

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Washington, D.C. – The CDBG Coalition, which consists of 20 national organizations that support increased funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, hosted an informative briefing today on Capitol Hill.

Elected officials and experts from national community development organizations conducted the briefing including Newton, MA Mayor Setti Warren, Dauphin County, PA Commissioner, George P. Hartwick III and Tim Ware, Executive Director of the George Washington Regional Commission and Past President of the National Association of Development Organizations.

Representative Joe Kennedy (MA-04)) and Representative James McGovern (MA-02) also participated in the briefing to demonstrate their strong support of the program.

The briefing provided a brief overview of the program, which has been cut by nearly \$1 billion since Fiscal year 2010, with remarks from elected officials and practitioners who work with the program. The CDBG Coalition also discussed the results of a recent survey of the program, which suggest that the 25 percent reduction in formula funding for CDBG over the last five years is having a substantial negative effect on the collective ability of cities, counties, and states to serve Americans in need, promote homeownership, grow local economies, and strengthen the nation's infrastructure.

During the program, panelist Newton (MA) Mayor Setti Warren, who also serves as Chair of the Community Development and Housing Committee for The U.S. Conference of Mayors, said "CDBG is one of the most effective and vital federal programs allocated to local government. Based on flexible choice and implementation by local decision makers, CDBG provides the agility to respond to unique local problems and concerns. Having just celebrated its 40th year in existence, the program is a mainstay of community and economic development, housing infrastructure, public improvements, and public services to thousands of cities across the nation."

Dauphin County, Pa. Commissioner George P. Hartwick, III, a member of NACo's Board of Directors, explained that the program is just as critical to counties as it is to cities. "Counties across the country leverage the flexibility of CDBG funds to support local top priorities including community revitalization and economic development, homeownership, infrastructure and human services. As we work with the private and non-profit sectors to address local needs, we need strong partners on Capitol Hill. We urge Congress to invest in the CDBG program to support our communities and residents."

Tim Ware, Executive Director of the George Washington Regional Commission and Past President of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) urged unwavering Congressional support saying, “At a time when local governments and rural communities are striving to overcome intensifying economic competition, aging public infrastructure, and shrinking federal investments, it is vital that federal policy makers continue to maintain strong funding for the CDBG program.”

The CDBG Coalition consists of the following 20 national organizations that support higher funding for the CDBG program: 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.