



City of Independence

Office of the Mayor, Don B. Reimal

February 7, 2011

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver
US House of Representatives
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Funding Threats to CDBG

Dear Congressman Cleaver:

As the Mayor of the City of Independence, I am writing this letter on behalf of our community to express our support for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and to voice our opposition to any threatened cuts or elimination of this program in FY11 or FY12. Any reduction in CDBG funding would severely slow down or eliminate thousands of local and state projects and programs that are directly contributing to local and regional recovery. CDBG is a vital resource to our community, providing funding for projects and services that directly impact the lives of our low- and moderate-income citizens. For example, important projects funded in Independence with CDBG have included:

- The Norledge Place Neighborhood Stabilization and Redevelopment Project, in northwest Independence, which is providing mixed-income housing opportunities and public infrastructure improvements for very low, low-to-moderate, and middle income households.
- The Palmer Center and Fairmount Community Center Senior Nutrition Programs, which provide hot and nutritious meals daily to senior and disabled residents.
- The City of Independence Emergency and Minor Home Repair Program that provides assistance to the most needy in our community, helping them to stay in their homes.
- The Independence Commercial Façade Improvement Program that assists business owners in designated commercial area with exterior building renovations, generating economic development opportunities through increased tax base, construction and permanent job creation, and community revitalization.

I have attached a fact sheet which goes into further detail of the accomplishments of CDBG within our community over the past five years. CDBG provides the flexibility to fund a myriad of activities, fill gaps where needed, and leverage and attract additional resources to projects. This combination of CDBG with other resources adds to our local economy through the purchase of goods and services and adds to the betterment of the lives of our local citizenry through improved neighborhoods and lives.

Page 2
The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver
Monday, February 7, 2011

We ask you to oppose any legislation that would eliminate or reduce funding for CDBG in FY11 or FY12. I would also like to extend an invitation to you and your staff to tour our CDBG-funded projects to see the benefits of the program firsthand. We thank you, in advance, for your support of CDBG. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don B. Reimal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Don B. Reimal
Mayor

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI
CDBG ACCOMPLISHMENTS
For the Past Five Years**

FACT SHEET

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

The City of Independence has implemented the Community Development Block Grant program as an Entitlement City since 1975. Over this period, the City has developed the technical expertise to implement housing programs that provide job creation and housing development activities. Without the CDBG funding this assistance would not have been provided. But more importantly, the staff has been available to respond to the disasters caused by floods, ice storms, and other severe weather and utilized the funding provided by the CDBG Program.

- For every one dollar of CDBG funding another **\$4.40 in private and public funding** was leveraged.
- **77,353 persons** were assisted through the CDBG program in the past five years.
- CDBG created or retained **33+ permanent jobs** in the past five years.
- CDBG funds in the amount of **\$492,875 were spent on economic development** activities such as direct financial assistance to businesses, commercial and industrial improvements, among others.
- CDBG funds in the amount of **\$1,032,898 were spent on public improvements**, such as the development and improvements of public facilities, street and sidewalk improvements, water and sewer improvements, senior centers and child care facilities, and the development of parks and recreational facilities, among others.
- CDBG-R funds in the amount of **\$202,906 were spent on public improvements** for Drumm Farm that provides services to foster care children and IBS Industries that provides jobs for disabled individuals in our community
- CDBG funds in the amount of **\$746,433 were spent on public services**, such as services for senior and youth projects, health services, employment training, services for abused and neglected children, and services for the disabled, among others.
- CDBG funds in the amount of **\$1,853,757 were provided for housing activities**, such as construction, rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance, lead-based paint testing and abatement, among others.