



City of Auburn

Home of Auburn University

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0104

RE: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Letter of Support

Dear Senator Sessions:

As a Subrecipient organization, beneficiary, and/or supporter of the City of Auburn, Alabama's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, we are signing this Letter of Support to express our support for the CDBG Program and to voice 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 various projects and programs in Auburn affecting many vulnerable residents. CDBG is a vital resource to our Auburn community, providing funding for projects and services that directly affect the lives of our low- and moderate-income citizens. For example, some important projects funded with CDBG in Auburn have included the following:

- On average, 86 percent of CDBG funds went to activities principally benefiting low-and moderate-income persons.
- CDBG funds were provided for housing activities, such as construction, rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance, lead-based paint testing and abatement, among others. Over 100 low-income families benefited from the City's various housing programs.
- CDBG funds were spent on public services that assisted 13,929 low-income families, such as services for senior and youth projects, utility, rental, and mortgage assistance, homeless assistance, services for victims of domestic violence, and affordable childcare for working mothers, among others.
- CDBG funds were utilized for over fifty public improvement projects, such as the improvements of public facilities, street and sidewalk improvements, water and sewer improvements, site improvements to develop an affordable housing subdivision, and the improvements of parks and recreational facilities, among others.
- CDBG funds were also used to eliminate blight in residential areas; twenty abandoned and dilapidated structures have been demolished.

Without CDBG, funding these projects could not have been assisted. 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 services.

We ask you to oppose any legislation that would eliminate or reduce funding for CDBG in FY11 or FY12. We thank you, in advance, for your support of CDBG.

Sincerely,

(Please see attached signature pages)

