

September 20, 2011

Dear Members of the United States House of Representatives:

The City of College Station wishes to express how the proposed 50% reduction in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) administrative cap from 20% to 10% would have a severely negative impact on our ability to effectively administer these vital funds.

The City of College Station has received CDBG funds since 1975 and these funds have been essential for enhancing the quality of life for low income residents. In 2009 -2010 CDBG funds were used to fund social service programs of nine partner nonprofit organizations, allowing them to serve 2,896 citizens by providing shelter for the homeless, food for the hungry, medicine for the sick and guidance for those in crisis. CDBG also funded two full time code enforcement officer positions to ensure the health and safety of low income areas of the City and provided funds for much needed infrastructure and public facility improvements.

The City of College Station strives to be an excellent steward of our CDBG and other public funds and only uses as administrative funds the very minimum necessary to ensure programs and projects run as they should. College Station only used 16% of the CDBG Grant for administration in PY 2010. A reduction of the administrative cap by 10% would not allow the City to provide the staffing, oversight, or planning necessary to use CDBG funds properly and in accordance with applicable regulations – decreasing the benefit to those in need that these funds are intended to provide.

In addition to internal staffing, oversight, and planning, the City of College Station currently uses our CDBG administrative dollars to fund local nonprofit organizations to build coalitions to better understand local need and to better serve the underserved in our community. These administrative funds are also used to support our HOME Investment Partnership programs which partner with organizations like Habitat for Humanity and our local Community Action Agency.

We respectfully request that the administrative cap for Community Development Block Grant funds remain at 20%.

Sincerely,



Nancy Berry
Mayor
City of College Station, Texas