



MAYOR
ROBERT CLUCK

*"Working Together to
Make Arlington Better"*

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October 31, 2011

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

VIA FACSIMILE: 202-224-0776

Dear Senator Hutchison:

As you work to conference disparate elements within the House and Senate versions of the FY 2012 Transportation-HUD (THUD) appropriations bill, I urge you to support the House-recommended funding level of \$3.5 billion in formula funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and \$1.2 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. I also urge you to oppose the House-recommended provision to cut administrative funding for CDBG in half.

The City uses CDBG and HOME funds to preserve and develop viable urban communities by providing home ownership assistance, housing rehabilitation, expanded economic opportunities, public facility improvements and economic development. Additionally, the City provides a wide range of public services targeted to low- and moderate-income residents and create the quality of life that has made Arlington the thriving community it is today. Both programs provide the flexibility to fund a myriad of activities, fill gaps where needed, and attract additional resources to projects. Any decrease in CDBG or HOME funding will result in the City having to cut vital community development programs and services.

I am deeply concerned about the provision in the House-recommended version to cut administrative funding for CDBG in half from 20 percent to 10 percent. A reduction in the administrative cost cap to will impose significant hardship on the City at a time when we can least afford it. The City already faces a constrained budget and a reduction of CDBG program administration funds would make it extremely difficult to maintain the staff level needed to administer and manage the program effectively. Any loss in program administration funds would seriously impact our ability to provide community development and affordable housing needs in our community.

CDBG and HOME are well-established programs that provide community and economic development, improve neighborhoods, and create and assist with purchasing affordable housing.. I appreciate your longstanding support of CDBG and HOME and urge you to support full funding of them and oppose the proposed cut in the cap on CDBG administrative uses in the FY 2012 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Cluck, M.D.
Mayor