

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Tom Latham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Olver
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Olver:

Thank you for preserving strong funding in the House FY2012 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations last year for the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG). As the subcommittee develops its FY 2013 appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to again preserve funding for this program, one of the most effective federal programs for growing the local economy and providing a lifeline for families and communities.

Please maintain the House FY2012 level of \$3.466 billion in formula funding for CDBG. CDBG is the centerpiece of the federal government's efforts to help more than 1,200 cities, counties and states meet the needs of their low- and moderate-income people and communities. It revitalizes communities - with proven results. CDBG helps fund a wide range of activities including housing investments, public infrastructure improvements, public services and local economic development projects where the private market is absent.

To ensure these funds are used effectively and efficiently, we urge the Committee to maintain the allowance of grant funds for planning, management development, and administration. We share your commitment to the most solid use of taxpayer dollars, and find the budgetary maintenance of management grants critical to effective oversight and use of federal funds.

Conversely, reducing CDBG funding will severely slow down or eliminate thousands of local and state initiatives that are directly contributing to local and regional recovery. Based on the data that grantees have reported to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development over the past seven years, CDBG has:


- Helped 962,489 low- and moderate-income households through single-family, owner-occupied rehabilitations, homeownership assistance, energy efficient improvements and lead-based paint abatement;
- Created or retained 280,828 jobs for low- and moderate-income people through a variety of economic development activities;
- Benefitted 27,092,035 low- and moderate-income households through public improvements such as the development of senior centers, child care centers and centers for people with disabilities; and
- Benefitted 83,962,631 low- and moderate-income households through public services such as employment and training services, meals and other assistance to the elderly and services for abused and neglected children.

Additionally, every \$1.00 of CDBG leverages an additional \$3.00 in non-CDBG funding.

This is an impressive record. CDBG makes its way into the local economy through an extensive network of local organizations. In this current economic climate, CDBG is a lifeline for families and communities. For example, HUD reports that between FY2007 and FY2011, CDBG helped over 174,000 businesses expand economic opportunities for our country's most vulnerable citizens, and over the last decade, CDBG programs have rehabilitated more than 1.4 million homes for low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters. The pressing need in the current economy for these funds remains critical.

We appreciate your consideration of this important request and strongly urge you to maintain the THUD FY2012 level of support and investment in this proven program.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Joni Langwin

Debbie Wasson Schuff

David N. Cicilli

Pete Stark

Tom Scott

Doris O. Matsui

Frederic S. Wilson

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Shelley Berkeley

Gary L. Ackerman

Carl E. Under

Glenn G. Thompson

Paul R. [unclear]

John [unclear]

Eliot L. Engel

David Shue

Ernie E. [unclear]

Art [unclear]

Emmanuel [unclear]

Tim Ryan

Mazie Hirono

Edward J. Markey

Mike McIntyre

Rush Holt

Clay H. [unclear]

Shirley Jackson

Steven [unclear]

Jim Moran

Louis Capps

Bob [unclear]

Hank [unclear]

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Colin ...

Robert ...

Niki ...

Bruce ...

Al ...

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Richard ...

Danny ...

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CDBG FY13 Signatures

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James P. McGovern
André Carson
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