

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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 Ed Pastor
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 Pastor:

As the subcommittee develops priorities for the FY2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, we respectfully urge you to prioritize commitment for this program, one of the most effective federal programs for growing the local economy and creating and maintaining much-needed jobs in our communities with proven results, as detailed below. **We request the subcommittee again provide at least \$3.3 billion in formula funding for CDBG.**

Since FY2005, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has collected accomplishment data for the CDBG program. The data highlights the program's flexibility to design and implement strategies tailored to meet local needs and priorities. From investing in housing initiatives, public infrastructure improvements, and economic development programs, to offering public services for the most vulnerable populations of our communities, every state across the nation has benefited in some way from this important program.

Despite being a key tool for aiding the growth of communities with broad bipartisan support from Congress, the CDBG program, like many other programs, has taken a share of robust cuts in recent years, falling substantially—by nearly \$1 billion since FY2010. These funding cuts have severely weakened the ability of states to revitalize their communities and respond to local needs. We share your commitment to the most responsible use of taxpayer dollars, but at the same time, we recognize that these grants have proven highly effective. Based on the data that grantees have reported to HUD over the past nine years (FY2005 – FY2013), CDBG has:

- Created or retained 330,546 jobs for low- and moderate-income persons through a variety of economic development activities;
- Helped 1,145,834 low- and moderate-income persons through single-family owner-occupied rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, energy-efficient improvements, and lead-based abatement, among other activities;
- Provided direct assistance to 220,695 businesses since FY2007;

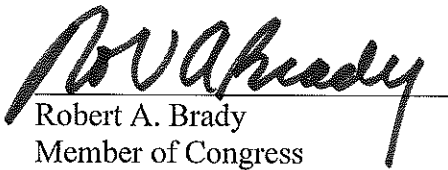
- Benefited 33,732,388 low- and moderate-income persons through public improvements such as senior centers, child care centers, and centers for people with disabilities;
- Benefited 105,027,207 low- and moderate-income persons through public services such as employment training, meals and other services to the elderly, services for abused and neglected children, assistance to local food banks, and other services.

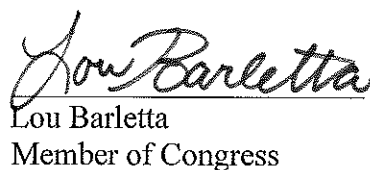
Additionally, every \$1.00 of CDBG spending leverages an additional \$4.05 in non-CDBG funding.

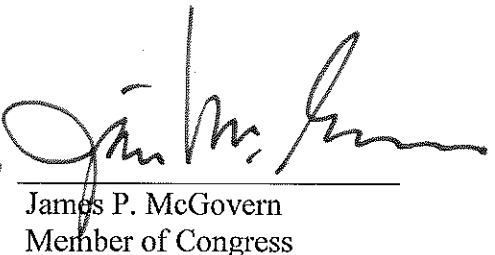
CDBG makes its way into the local economy through an extensive network of local organizations and remains a lifeline for families and communities. More than 7,200 communities have access to these funds, and it is one of the few federal programs that touch the lives of nearly every American in some fashion. Most importantly, the pressing need in the current economy for these funds remains critical.

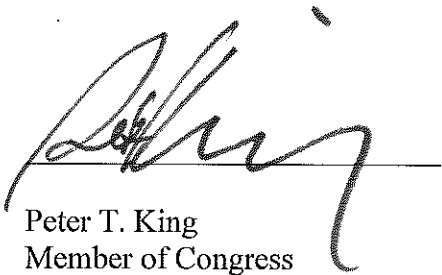
While we understand the difficult fiscal decisions we must make in Washington, we appreciate your consideration of this important request and strongly urge you to support at least \$3.3 billion for the CDBG program in FY2015.

Sincerely,

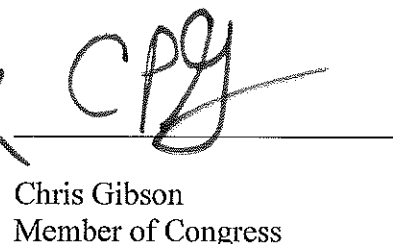

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