

June 6, 2002

Mr. Roy Bernardi, Assistant Secretary
Community Planning and Development
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW – Room 7100
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Mr. Bernardi:

The National Community Development Association (NCDA) and the Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCD A) representing the entitlement and State CDBG agencies would like to determine the changes to the CDBG formula allocations resulting from the utilization of the 2000 Census data. We would like to formally request that HUD provide a tabulation of the FY 2002 CDBG allocations using the new Census data. Because the data has just become available, we are requesting this information now because we believe we must begin immediately to help our members understand the possible ramifications of the 2000 Census data to their jurisdictions' CDBG funding level.

We have received this type of information directly from HUD in the past to assist us in making decisions on possible recommendations for CDBG formula changes. NCDA and COSCD A have always worked closely with the Department– our recently successful collaboration on timely expenditure of the CDBG program is just one example of the benefits of our partnership. Now we urge you to partner with us on careful examination of the CDBG formula. Working together on this issue will be the best way to maintain the bipartisan support the program has enjoyed over its 27 year history.

NCDA is having its Annual Conference in Providence, RI next week, and COSCD A will hold its annual CDBG Program Managers meeting in July. The 2000 Census data and CDBG formula will be major topics at both meetings and having the data available at those conferences would be quite appropriate. The timing of this type of deliberation amongst CDBG agencies is crucial. We wish to foster an intelligent and rational discourse amongst CDBG grantees on possible changes to the formula factors before any legislative changes are considered. We are requesting HUD forward this information to NCDA and COSCD A by Wednesday, June 12, 2002 to facilitate discussion and debate on this important issue.

Thank you for considering our request. Ms. Western will contact you later in the week to discuss this matter further.

Respectfully,

Chandra Western
NCDA Executive Director

Dianne Taylor
COSCD A Executive Director