



April 4, 2003

The Honorable Mike DeWine
United States Senate
140 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3503

Dear Senator DeWine:

As the FY 2004 appropriations process begins, we respectfully request your support for two very important programs within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program. These programs assist local governments with a variety of housing and community development needs. **[PLEASE PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY CDBG AND/OR HOME WITHIN YOUR CITY HERE.]**

The funding for both CDBG and HOME has remained relatively stagnant. With the insertion of the 2000 Census data into the formula calculations for these programs in FY 2004, the funding will further erode. Because of the new data, approximately 80 to 100 new CDBG grantees will be created and approximately 20 new participating jurisdictions within the HOME program will be created. While this will greatly broaden the program to other areas, it will place a drain on the already stagnant formula allocations in both programs. We urge you to seek \$5.0 billion in *formula* funding for CDBG in FY 2004 and \$2.25 billion in *formula* funding for the HOME program. These are modest increases that will still allow you and other appropriators to maintain the budget in other areas.

The Administration's FY 2004 budget request eliminates funding for Section 108 and transfers the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) to the Environmental Protection Agency, while reducing the funding for the program. We request that funding for Section 108 be restored to its FY 2003 level, and that administration of BEDI remain at HUD and the program be funded at \$50 million, the same level requested by the Administration last Fall.

Finally, we thank you and the other appropriators for providing \$50 million in FY 2003 for a new Lead Hazard Reduction Program. Lead-based paint is a serious health threat, particularly to small children. This funding will help our city eradicate lead paint hazards in our low- and moderate-income housing units where children reside. We urge you to increase the funding for this program to \$75 million in FY 2004, as recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee last year.

We appreciate your continued support of these programs. Please feel free to contact _____ at _____ with any questions.

Sincerely,

cc: Elizabeth Belleville, Office of Senator DeWine