

Sample Letter to Appropriators

Date

The Honorable (first and last name)
U.S. Senate (U.S. House of Representatives)
Washington, DC 20510 (Senate) 20515 (House)

Dear Senator/Representative (last name):

As you begin the appropriations process, this letter urges you to provide level funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at \$4.7 billion in FY06, with no less than \$4.350 billion in formula funding to CDBG grantees.

As you know, for more than thirty years, the CDBG program has been a critical source of support to states and localities, helping them tackle their most serious community development challenges, including affordable housing, infrastructure, public services and economic development. In 2004, over 95 percent of CDBG funds went to activities principally benefiting low- and moderate-income persons. In 2004 alone, CDBG helped rehabilitate nearly 19,000 rental housing units and helped create or retain more than 90,000 jobs. Because of CDBG funded assistance, more than 11,000 low- and moderate-income families became new homeowners in 2004. Millions of Americans have benefited from public improvements and public services provided with CDBG funds. In my community, the program has been used to fund a variety of important community development activities, including..... In addition, CDBG provided assistance to more than.....persons in my community last year. *(It is important that you talk about how the program works in your community.* Please feel free to add other examples. Congressional members want to know how the program is benefiting their constituents.)

Congress expressed strong bipartisan support for CDBG recently by adding language in the conference agreement of the FY06 Budget Resolution to restore funding to CDBG. The FY06 Budget Resolution increased Function 450, the function within which CDBG falls in the budget, by \$1.5 billion specifically to “maintain economic and community development programs *such as CDBG at 2005 levels.*” We urge you to support this recommendation and provide level funding of \$4.7 billion for CDBG in FY06, with no less than \$4.350 billion provided in direct formula funding to CDBG grantees.

Sincerely,