

November 19, 2014

Re: H. Res. 668, Supporting the 40th Anniversary of the Community Development Block Grant Program

Dear House Financial Services Committee Member (and House Leaders):

The undersigned members of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coalition representing local elected officials, community development practitioners, economic development practitioners, and non-profit organizations write to ask for your support in moving H. Res. 668 to the House floor under suspension of the rules before this session of Congress ends.

H. Res. 668, **Supporting the Goals and Ideals of the Community Development Block Grant Program**, is a non-controversial, bi-partisan resolution introduced by Representatives Fattah (D-PA), Turner (R-OH), Barletta (R-PA), Brady (D-PA), Gibson (R-NY), and McGovern (D-MA) that seeks to recognize the 40th Anniversary of CDBG.

Signed into law by President Gerald Ford in 1974, CDBG provides States and local governments with important funding to design and implement local community development projects and programs to improve neighborhoods. It is an important mechanism for creating jobs, assisting small businesses, providing needed infrastructure, rehabilitating owner-occupied housing, providing homeownership opportunities, and providing critical services. The program allows jurisdictions to partner with non-profit organizations, local contractors, and for-profit entities to deliver activities funded through the program.

The program generates billions of dollars in leveraged funds annually; contributing important resources to both local economies and to the national economy. Every \$1.00 of CDBG invested in a community leverages, on average, \$4.00 in other funds. It is also an important job creation tool. In just eight years, between 2005 and 2013, CDBG funding created or retained over 330,000 jobs. CDBG reaches people throughout the nation; approximately 7,000 cities, towns, and counties have access to CDBG annually and between 2005 and 20013, CDBG-funded public services were made available to over 100 million people with 1 million people directly assisted with the services.

The CDBG program has established a legacy of commitment, support, and results in our nation's communities. We ask that you recognize the legacy of the program by supporting H. Res. 668 and ensuring passage of the resolution before this session of Congress ends.

Sincerely,

U.S. Conference of Mayors
National Association of Counties
National League of Cities
American Planning Association
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Feeding America
International Economic Development Council
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
National Association of County Community and Economic Development
National Association of Development Organizations

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Community Development Association
National Rural Housing Coalition
National Urban League
Rebuilding Together
YWCA USA