

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2013

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:

Thank you for your support in the FY2013 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations for the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG). As the subcommittee develops its FY2014 appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to prioritize commitment for this program, one of the most effective federal programs for growing the local economy and providing a lifeline for families and communities, with proven results. **We request the subcommittee again provide \$3.3 billion in formula funding for CDBG.**

Since 2007, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has collected data for the CDBG program by objective, outcome, and output measures. The data highlight the program's flexibility to design and implement strategies tailored to meet local needs and priorities. It has provided funds in every state, including housing investments and lead-abatement projects helping to revitalize older communities; it has contributed to public infrastructure improvements and economic development, while also providing public services, including services for the disabled, youth, and employment training.

Despite being a key tool for aiding the growth of communities, the CDBG program, like many programs, has taken a share of robust cuts in recent years, falling substantially—by over \$1 billion since FY2010. While the program is the centerpiece of the federal government's efforts to help more than 1,200 cities, counties and states meet the needs of low- and moderate-income people and communities, funding cuts have severely weakened the ability of states to revitalize their communities and respond to local need. We share your commitment to the most effective use of taxpayer dollars, and find these grants proven effective. Based on the data that grantees have reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development over the past eight years (FY2005 – FY2012), CDBG has:

- Helped 1,051,501 low- and moderate-income persons through single-family, owner-occupied rehabilitations, homeownership assistance, energy-efficient improvements, and lead-based abatement;
- Created or retained 302,622 jobs for low- and moderate-income people through a variety of economic development activities;

- Benefited 30,447,885 low- and moderate-income persons through public improvements such as senior centers, child care centers, and centers for people with disabilities;
- Benefited 95,180,729 low- and moderate-income persons through public services such as employment training services, 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 leverages an additional \$3.55 in non-CDBG funding.

This is an impressive record. CDBG makes its way into the local economy through an extensive network of local organizations and remains a lifeline for families and communities. For example, HUD reports that between FY2007 and FY2011, CDBG helped over 174,000 businesses expand economic opportunities for our country's most vulnerable citizens, and over the last decade, CDBG programs have rehabilitated more than 1.4 million homes for low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters. 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 maintain your FY2013 level of support and investment in this proven program.

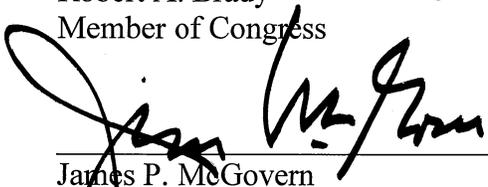
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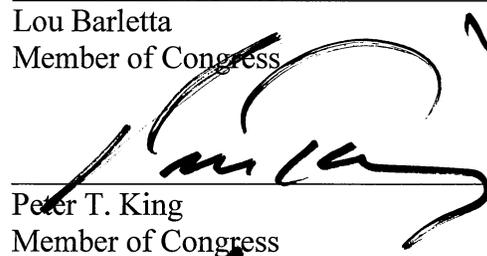
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