



October 5, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Ben Carson
Secretary
Department of Housing & Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Director Mulvaney and Secretary Carson:

As the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 budget process continues, the undersigned national organizations comprising the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coalition request the Administration support at least \$3.3 billion in formula funding for the CDBG program in the FY 2019 budget.

The Administration's FY 2018 budget zeroed out funding for CDBG. We write to express our strong opposition to further attempts to eliminate or decrease program funding. Because of the work of the CDBG Coalition, the unwavering bi-partisan support from Congress, and grassroots support from communities nationwide, CDBG program funding has been restored for FY 2018.

For over 40 years, CDBG has served as the cornerstone of the federal government's commitment to partnering with states and local governments to strengthen our nation's communities and improve the quality of life for low- and moderate-income Americans. CDBG provides state and local governments and their partners with the flexibility to develop essential programs and projects that provide economic investment, neighborhood revitalization, safe, decent, affordable housing, and services in communities nationwide.

CDBG serves as the preeminent program in providing resources to communities following Presidentially-declared disasters. Congress funnels supplemental appropriations through CDBG as Disaster Recovery grants (CDBG-DR) to help communities rebuild. CDBG-DR funding provides short-term disaster relief, mitigation assistance, and assists in long-term recovery efforts. CDBG-DR grants also help communities build more resilient infrastructure for future disaster threats. CDBG-DR funds were used to help Oklahoma City rebuild after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995, helped New York City rebuild following the 2001 terrorist attacks and helped communities recover from floods, hurricanes, tornados, and earthquakes over the past two decades. Most recently, Congress approved \$7.4 billion in CDBG-DR funding to assist areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

CDBG is, perhaps, one of the most impactful federal programs. Every State, Territory, and Congressional district has access to the funds. The CDBG program is very much a results-oriented program, as shown by HUD's own data below. The data highlights the program's flexibility to design and implement strategies tailored to meet local needs and priorities.

- **CDBG is a jobs generator. *Between FY05-FY16, CDBG created/retained 387,109 economic development related jobs.***

- **CDBG leverages other funds.** *For every \$1.00 of CDBG investment, another \$4.09 in private and public dollars is leveraged.*
- **CDBG provides safe, decent, affordable housing.** Between FY05-FY16, CDBG assisted over **1.3 million low- and moderate-income homeowners** rehabilitate their homes, provided down payment and closing cost assistance to qualified home buyers, and assisted homeowners with lead-based paint abatement.
- **CDBG provides crucial public improvements to communities.** Between FY05-FY16, CDBG public improvements directly benefitted **over 42 million low- and moderate-income people nationwide.** These public improvements included senior centers, child care centers, group homes for persons with disabilities, shelters for victims of domestic violence and homeless veterans, health clinics providing vaccinations and dental care to low-income children, sanitary water and sewer systems, parks and recreational opportunities, safe streets, and improved drainage systems, among others.
- **CDBG provides needed public services.** Between FY05-FY16, CDBG provided public services to **over 133 million low- and moderate-income persons nationwide.** These services included employment training, meals and other services to the elderly, services to help abused and neglected children, assistance to local food banks, and many other services.
- **Over 95% of CDBG funding** is targeted to low-income and moderate-income people (80% of area median income or below).

In short, CDBG works. It addresses community development need, provides local flexibility and decision making, creates jobs, leverages other funds, and targets program funds to projects that assist low- and moderate-income households. ***We ask you to support no less than \$3.3 billion for the program in FY 2019.***

Sincerely,

American Planning Association

Council of Large Public Housing Authorities

Council of State Community Development Agencies

Feeding America

Habitat for Humanity International

Heartland Alliance

International Economic Development Council

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

National Association for County Community and Economic Development

National Association of Counties

National Association of Development Organizations

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials

National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies

National Association of Regional Councils

National Community Development Association

National Development Council

National League of Cities

National Main Street Center

National Recreation and Park Association

National Urban League

Rebuilding Together

Rural Community Assistance Partnership

The Trust for Public Land

U.S. Conference of Mayors

YWCA USA