

December 19, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned organizations representing local elected officials, state and local government practitioners, and non-profit organizations, write to you to ask for your support of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program in the Administration's FY 2013 Budget. In the consolidated appropriations bill approved by Congress on November 17, 2011, the CDBG program was cut by nearly 12%, from \$3.3 billion in formula funding in FY11 to \$2.948 billion in formula funding in FY12. The HOME program received a 38% cut, reducing the program from \$1.6 billion in FY11 to \$1 billion in FY12. Since FY10, the CDBG program has been cut by 25% and the HOME program has been cut by 48%.

While we understand the need to reduce the federal deficit, it cannot be done solely on the backs of domestic discretionary programs such as CDBG and HOME. These programs, which assist low- and moderate-income households, are needed more than ever to help people maintain affordable housing, provide shelter for the homeless, provide infrastructure and water lines in rural areas, provide the seeds for job creation through economic development assistance to small businesses, and provide critical services to local communities (e.g., assistance to local food banks, day care assistance for low-income families, operation assistance to emergency shelters, after-school tutoring and mentoring programs to low-income youth, to name a few).

We are concerned that any further reductions in these two programs will seriously weaken their ability to help people locally. We ask you for your support of these critical programs in your FY 2013 Budget request.

Respectfully,

American Planning Association
Council of State Community Development Agencies
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association of Counties
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Community Development Association
Rebuilding Together
U.S. Soccer Foundation
YWCA USA

cc: Jacob Lew