



September 30, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Room S-128 Capitol Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128 The Capitol Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Transportation-Housing
and Urban Development Subcommittee 184
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Transportation-Housing
and Urban Development Subcommittee 125
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable David Price
Chairman
House Appropriations Transportation-Housing
and Urban Development Subcommittee 2358-A
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Transportation-Housing
and Urban Development Subcommittee 2358-
A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairwoman Collins, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Price, and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

In recent weeks, House and Senate Appropriations committees have approved their respective Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bills for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coalition is grateful to appropriators for rejecting the Administration's request to eliminate key housing and community development programs under HUD. However, level funding for these programs, especially CDBG, prolongs local development needs. As the bill moves forward, we urge appropriators to reflect budgetary increases under the new two-year agreement and make further investments in CDBG.

A wide array of community needs exist throughout the country and additional federal support is long overdue. As described in the CDBG Coalition's [2019 National Report](#), states and localities continue to fall further behind in maintaining quality infrastructure and services. CDBG serves as one of the few sources of federal assistance for local development priorities, however requests for CDBG funding consistently outweigh available resources. Over the history of the program, CDBG has received reduced funding (\$1.1 billion cut since FY2001) while grantees have more than doubled (1,268 in FY2019) since the program's inception. These factors coupled with a growing list of needs in affordable housing, water and wastewater facilities, and transportation, among many others, have compounded issues over many years. A further decline in spending - or even level funding - will result in fewer projects completed and less people served.

Again, we extend our gratitude for your efforts on FY2020 appropriations. Our coalition endorses \$3.8 billion for CDBG in FY2020 and encourages the highest possible level of funding in a final bill.

Sincerely,

American Library Association
American Planning Association
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Enterprise Community Partners
Feeding America
Habitat for Humanity International
Heartland Alliance
International Code Council
International Economic Development Council
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders
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 League of Cities
National Main Street Center
National NeighborWorks Association
National Recreation and Park Association
National Rural Water Association
National Urban League
Rebuilding Together
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
The Trust for Public Land
U.S. Conference of Mayors
YWCA USA

