



**April 19, 2021**

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

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
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 Brian Schatz  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Transportation-Housing  
and Urban Development Subcommittee  
S-146A, The Capitol  
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Transportation-Housing  
and Urban Development Subcommittee  
186 Dirksen 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 Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Collins, Chairman Price, and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As Congress and the administration look ahead to delivering a major infrastructure package, we urge your consideration of supporting local-led projects through the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG). Since 1975, CDBG has invested federal resources in community-based projects and services targeting underserved and vulnerable populations. As most program funding is applied towards infrastructure and public facilities, CDBG is a reliable source of federal funds as over 1,250 states and localities receive annual allocations for project and service implementation. We urge consideration of CDBG as a viable program for directing new resources to meet widespread infrastructure needs.

CDBG has a proven record of supporting comprehensive infrastructure. Based on the latest HUD data - since 2005 - the program has made significant investments in public improvements including water and wastewater upgrades, community centers, street improvements, and senior centers benefitting 51.5 million persons. During the same period, over 1.6 million households were supported by the program

with resources contributing to housing construction and rehabilitation, public housing modernization, and energy efficiency improvements among other activities. Significant resources are also directed to economic development and public services which in turn advances both new infrastructure as well as existing public facilities. Additionally, the program's return on investment is substantial; for every dollar of CDBG invested in projects and services, another \$4.09 is leveraged from other public and private sources.

Though CDBG's impact is evident across the country, the program has remained significantly underfunded to adequately support community needs. The [2019 CDBG Coalition National Report](#) details how over many decades annual spending has lagged behind earlier investments in the program. Throughout its history, CDBG has consistently received less than its initial appropriation of \$2.4 billion in 1975 when adjusted for inflation. At the same time, requests for funds consistently outweigh available grant dollars. The situation has amounted to localities attempting to address swelling infrastructure gaps with fewer available resources. Limited options exist for many communities especially those experiencing loss of population and declining revenue. Overall, localities have been unable to keep up with the rising demands and costs of maintenance to roads, utility replacements, housing repairs, and related needs of urban, suburban, and rural communities alike.

CDBG remains a prime resource for state and local governments to improve quality of life and economic outcomes for their residents. Further investment would mean better infrastructure, more jobs, increased access to key services, and additional units of affordable housing. CDBG provides an important and tested program to rebuilding our nation and promoting people where they live.

Please reach out if we can provide additional details regarding CDBG's key role in local-led infrastructure development, and potential for further federal support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

American Library Association  
American Planning Association  
Boys and Girls Clubs of America  
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities  
Council of State Community Development Agencies  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Feeding America  
Habitat for Humanity International  
Heartland Alliance  
Housing Assistance Council  
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  
Rebuilding Together  
Rural Community Assistance Partnership  
The Trust for Public Land  
U.S. Conference of Mayors  
YWCA USA

**ABOUT:**

The CDBG Coalition consists of 31 national organizations representing local elected officials, housing and community development professionals, and a wide array of non-profit organizations. The Coalition is dedicated to the preservation of the CDBG program and works to increase awareness and need for increased program funding.