October 13, 2023

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hyde-Smith, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member Quigley:

Following respective committee markups in the House and Senate, the 33 undersigned national organizations request your approval of no less than $3.3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula program as a part of a final fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations measure. Sustained funding to CDBG ensures communities have the resources necessary to address key needs in public facilities, housing, public services such as senior care and workforce training, and economic development among other priorities. The program remains a widespread, accessible tool to transform neighborhoods, improve economic and social outcomes, and uplift people out of poverty. Ongoing resources ensure states and localities can accommodate projects and services for vulnerable populations.
CDBG is a proven and effective use of federal funds for low- and moderate-income (LMI) populations. From 2005 to 2022, the program facilitated the creation and retention of 521,432 jobs, contributed to infrastructure developments benefitting approximately 609 million persons, assisted over 980 million persons through public service activities, and met the housing needs of over 1.7 million households. CDBG investments leveraged an average of $2.80 for every $1.00 of grant funding in 2021, amplifying the program’s return on investment with $2.4 billion in other resources.¹

CDBG was approved at $3.3 billion in FY23 – $150 million less than FY21 and far less than its highest mark of $4.5 billion in FY95. Further cuts to the program coupled with increased inflation means CDBG facilitates fewer projects and services. As a result, less LMI households are assisted in basic needs including clean water, stable and affordable housing, education and healthcare facilities, and public safety.

We call on Congress to continue to fund CDBG formula grants at no less than $3.3 billion in FY 2024. If you have any questions regarding the program, please feel free to contact Vicki Watson, National Community Development Association, vwatson@ncdaonline.org or Josh Shumaker, Council of State Community Development Agencies, jshumaker@coscda.org.

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
KABOOM!
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Main Street America
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 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