July 22, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins

Chair

Appropriations Committee

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith

Member

Appropriations Committee

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray

Vice Chair

Appropriations Committee

United States Senate

Washington, DC 201510

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand

Member

Appropriations Committee

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Member Hyde-Smith, and Member Gillibrand,

The undersigned members of the CDBG Coalition thank you for your support of HUD’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for FY26. We are urging that the program be fully funded at the level of $3.3 billion in FY26 to keep up with local development needs across the country.

CDBG is a highly impactful federal program that allows States and local governments and their program partners to craft locally driven solutions to urgent community development needs in four program areas: public facilities and infrastructure, public services, affordable housing, and economic development. There is no other federal program that provides communities with the resources and flexibility to collectively address these issues.

Program benefits are seen in every state and county, where local leaders are finding innovative solutions for unique community needs. In **Maine**, this included 18 workforce housing units in Waterville and 48 affordable housing apartments in Belfast in FY24. Since the State of Maine began administering the CDBG program in 1982, it has invested over $600 million in Maine’s rural communities.

In **Washington State**, $250,000 in CDBG funds will provide continued microenterprise technical assistance to support small businesses and entrepreneurs in Okanogan County. Additionally, $1.62 million will be used to replace HVAC systems in Ellensburg’s Public Library and Community Center in 2025. Last year, the City of Olympia’s Energize Olympia program worked to increase energy efficiency in 22 LMI households by providing subsidized heat pumps thanks to CDBG.

CDBG has helped to create and retain over 23,000 jobs across **Mississippi** since FY05, proving that the program is invaluable in fostering long term development.

In FY25, **New York**’s Homes and Community Renewal allocated $27 million of the State’s CDBG allocation to support 31 projects in non-entitlement communities across the state. These awards included 10 community planning projects, seven public facilities, and 14 public infrastructure projects. Projects range from ADA improvements in City Halls to improving wastewater treatment plants to job skills training for disabled persons.

Additionally, the CDBG program has had a strong record of success over the past five decades. Since FY05, HUD estimates that nearly 54 million people have directly benefitted from CDBG infrastructure projects alone. The CDBG program also receives a high return on investment of taxpayer dollars – every $1.00 in CDBG investment leverages $5.02 from other public and private sources.

We applaud your recognition of the value the CDBG program brings to communities across the nation. We look forward to partnering with the committee on continued investments in the CDBG program. Please direct any questions or requests to Vicki Watson (vwatson@ncdaonline.org), National Community Development Association, or Jenna Hampton (jhampton@coscda.org), National Council of State Community Development Agencies.

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