

Senate CDBG Dear Colleague Letter

Sending Office: The Honorable Tammy Baldwin

Sent By: [Meghan_Ladwig@baldwin.senate.gov](mailto: Meghan_Ladwig@baldwin.senate.gov)

Deadline to sign is April 4

Senator Baldwin invites your boss to join her in requesting \$3.8 billion for the Community Development Block Grant in the FY20 THUD appropriations bill. The President's budget again eliminates funding for CDBG.

FY19 signers: Coons, Feinstein, Manchin, Schatz, Duckworth, Blumenthal, Kaine, Warren, Carper, Hassan, Wyden, Whitehouse, Van Hollen, Bennet, Harris, Casey, Murphy, Cortez Masto, Shaheen, Peters, Warner, Stabenow, Klobuchar, Cantwell, Menendez, King, Gillibrand, Markey, Sanders, Booker, Smith, Merkley, Brown, Cardin, Hirono, Heinrich, Durbin, Udall

If you have questions or would like to sign on, please contact Meghan Ladwig ([Meghan_Ladwig@baldwin.senate.gov](mailto: Meghan_Ladwig@baldwin.senate.gov); 4-9159).

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

As you begin consideration of the Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD), and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we strongly encourage the Subcommittee to continue the Federal government's commitment to community development programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and support \$3.8 billion in formula funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

The CDBG program is one of the Federal government's most effective means to revitalize low- and moderate-income communities across the country. CDBG funding supports homeownership, housing rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements and economic development projects while encouraging additional local investment. Every \$1.00 of CDBG funding leverages another \$4.09 in additional public and private investments. CDBG makes its way into local economies through an extensive network of local organizations and remains a necessary resource for families and communities.

Over 1,200 state and local governments receive annual CDBG funding directly and every State, Territory, and Congressional District receives or has access to CDBG funds. The importance of this funding to meet the unique needs of local communities is widely recognized, and we find it troubling that the President has once again proposed eliminating CDBG altogether. Doing so would shift an insurmountable cost to local communities.

CDBG Strengthens Families and Communities through Homeownership. CDBG funds are used to assist creditworthy, working families with down payment and closing cost assistance to purchase a home. Homeownership stabilizes neighborhoods, allows families to build assets, and adds to the local tax base. Communities may use CDBG funding for lead-based paint testing and abatement, among other activities. Between FY05 and FY18, CDBG was used to provide safe and affordable housing to over 1.433 million low- and moderate-income households.

CDBG Builds Local Infrastructure. CDBG funds are used by communities for infrastructure improvements, including safe drinking water and sanitary sewer systems, street improvements, and the development of child care centers and health clinics that provide health services and dental care to low-income children. Since FY05, CDBG public infrastructure improvements have directly benefited over 47 million low- and moderate-income people nationwide.

CDBG is a Jobs Generator. Through economic development activities, including microenterprise assistance, direct assistance to businesses, and the development of public facilities, CDBG has created or retained 419,755 jobs across the country. Communities and local partners have used CDBG funding to provide employment training to over 1.4 million individuals since FY05.

CDBG Helps Seniors Live Independently. CDBG funds are used to rehabilitate the homes of low- and moderate-income elderly persons to allow them to age in place, thereby avoiding costly assisted living and nursing home care. CDBG provides resources to Meals on Wheels and other local food programs to ensure our low-income seniors receive daily nourishment and contact. Further, CDBG funds are used to build senior centers to allow seniors to receive health and recreational services to stay engaged and healthy. Communities have used CDBG funds to provide services to over 13.7 million seniors.

CDBG Invests in Our Next Generation. Local communities use CDBG funds to provide afterschool programs for low-income children and summer jobs for low-income youth, as well as to build recreation centers to provide a safe outlet for learning, sports and personal growth. CDBG funding has been used to provide services to over 13 million youth, and youth centers funded through CDBG have provided direct assistance to over 637,000 youth.

CDBG Creates Safer Communities. Communities use CDBG to work with local police departments and neighborhood leaders to fight crime and make neighborhoods safer places to live and work by creating and expanding neighborhood watch groups, making safety improvements to homes and businesses, and encouraging local police sub-stations to move into high crime areas. CDBG has provided crime awareness and prevention services to over 739,000 people.

We understand that the subcommittee must make difficult decisions, however, we urge you to provide \$3.8 billion for the CDBG program in the FY20 THUD Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued support of community development and revitalization.

Sincerely,



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