



February 17, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in support of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The CDBG program, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is one of the Federal government's most effective means to revitalize low-and moderate-income communities across the country. Regrettably, the previous Administration proposed budgets that would have eliminated CDBG. Congress rejected those proposals and has steadily increased this vital community development funding, and provided additional CDBG funds as part of the CARES Act to help states and local governments to respond to COVID-19. We hope that you will prioritize funding for CDBG in your Fiscal Year 2022 budget proposal.

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. States and local governments use CDBG funds for projects related to housing, community and economic development, infrastructure projects and human services. CDBG funds allow for partnerships with nonprofits to address community needs.

CDBG funding supports homeownership, housing rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements and community and economic development projects while encouraging additional local investment. 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. Moreover, communities may use CDBG funding for lead-based paint testing and abatement, 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.

Through economic development activities, including microenterprise assistance, direct assistance to businesses, and the development of public facilities, CDBG is a jobs generator. 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. 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.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to support community development and revitalization.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

/s/ Catherine Cortez Masto

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

/s/ Sheldon Whitehouse

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher A. Coons

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

/s/ Tina Smith

Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator