

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

As you begin consideration of the Fiscal Year 2018 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 \$3.3 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, public improvements and economic development projects while encouraging additional local investment. CDBG makes its way into local economies through an extensive network of local organizations and remains a needed resource for families and communities.

Over 1,200 state and local governments receive annual CDBG funding. 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's budget proposes to eliminate the program altogether. Doing so would shift an insurmountable cost to local communities.

Over the past 40 years, the CDBG program has invested more than \$149 billion in communities nationwide. According to data reported to HUD by grantees, from FY 2005-2016, CDBG has helped more than 1.3 million households rehabilitate their homes, provided down payment and closing cost assistance to qualified homebuyers, and assisted homeowners with lead-based paint abatement. In addition, since 2005, the program has assisted in the creation and retention of more than 387,109 economic development-related jobs in low-income and moderate-income communities. CDBG has provided public services benefitting over 133 million people.

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.

CDBG Strengthens Families through Homeownership. CDBG funds are used to assist credit-worthy, 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.

CDBG Creates Safer Communities. Local 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.


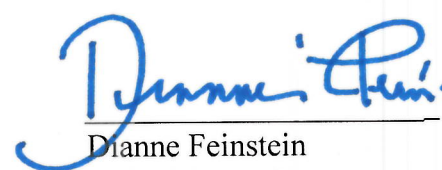
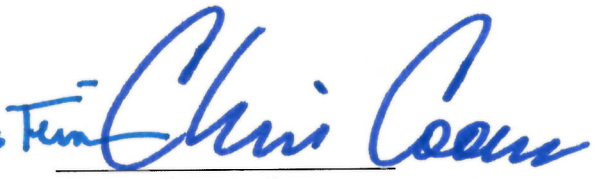
CDBG Invests in Our Next Generation. Local communities use CDBG funds to provide afterschool programs to low-income children, summer jobs for low-income youth, and build recreation centers to provide a safe outlet for learning, sports and personal growth.

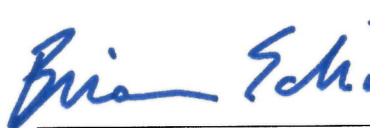

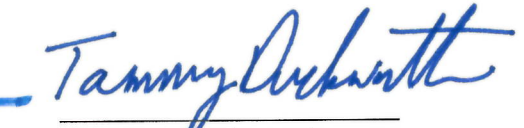
Additionally, every \$1.00 of CDBG leverages another \$3.65 in non-CDBG funding.

When adjusted for inflation, last year's funding level of \$3 billion was only 20 percent of funding received during the program's first year in 1975—a year when the program served less than half as many grantees. We understand that the subcommittee must make difficult decisions, however, we urge you to provide no less than \$3.3 billion for the CDBG program in the FY18 THUD Appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued support of community development and revitalization.

Sincerely,

 Tammy Baldwin United States Senator	 Dianne Feinstein United States Senator	 Christopher A. Coons United States Senator
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 Brian Schatz United States Senator	 Richard J. Durbin United States Senator	 Tammy Duckworth United States Senator
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Edward J. Markey

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United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Bob Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Mazie Hirono

Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Tom Carper

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Tom Udall

Tom Udall
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Al Franken

Al Franken
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal

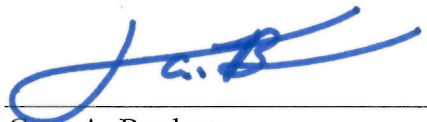
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III

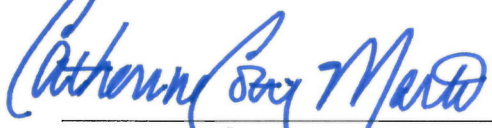
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



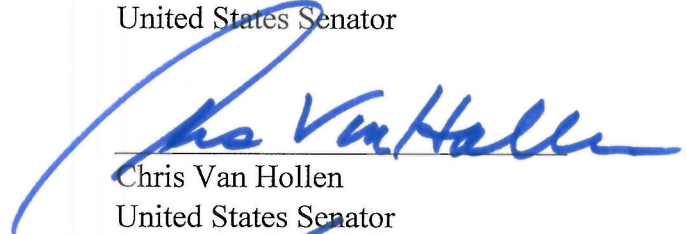
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



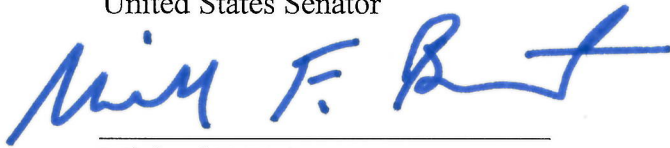
Bill Nelson
United States Senator



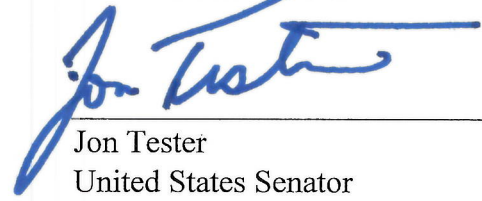
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



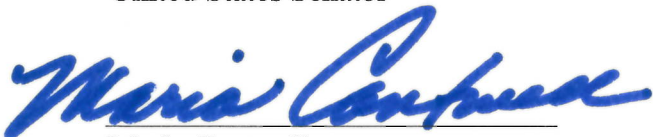
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



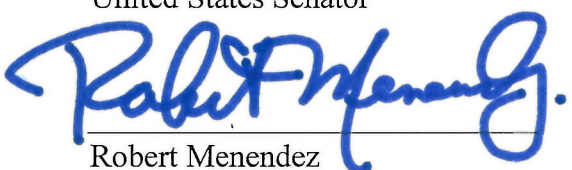
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



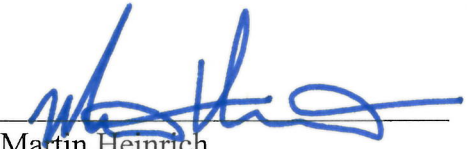
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



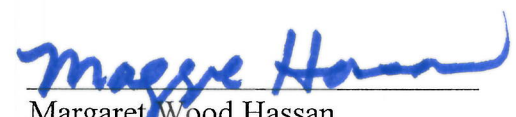
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



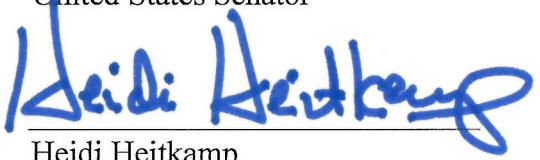
Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



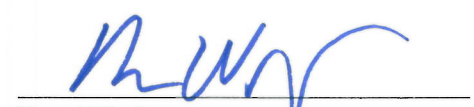
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



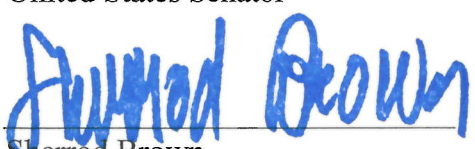
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



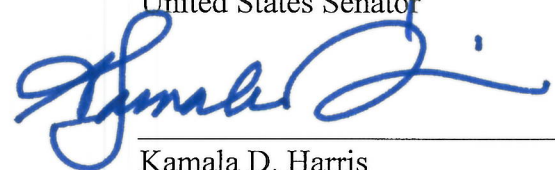
Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator