

November 10, 2008

The Honorable Harry M. Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
528 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Madam Speaker Pelosi:

The undersigned organizations representing local elected officials, local and State community development practitioners, and nonprofit organizations write to ask for your support for \$10 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as part of the economic stimulus package currently under consideration. Because of its flexibility and emphasis on local decision-making, the CDBG program has been used in the past to disseminate funds quickly to areas impacted by disasters or facing economic turmoil.

In the current economic downturn, we can think of no better program than CDBG to provide jurisdictions with a much needed injection of funds to support local infrastructure projects and economic and community development activities. These projects will stimulate local economies by creating and retaining jobs, supporting local businesses, and increasing State and local governments' revenue bases. Moreover, every dollar of CDBG funding has traditionally leveraged another three dollars in private and public investment. These leveraged funds will further help to spur the investment needed to revitalize the lagging economy.

Again, we urge you to support the inclusion of \$10 billion in CDBG funding, to be distributed according to the existing program, in the next economic stimulus package. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Children and Families
American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees
Habitat for Humanity International
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Community Development Association
United States Conference of Mayors
United Neighborhood Centers of America