FOR OVER 40 YEARS, CDBG has helped over 1,200 state and local governments to rebuild their local economies, strengthen public infrastructure, recover from disasters, and improve the quality of life for millions of low- and moderate-income Americans. This flexible program emphasizes local decision-making and prioritization of needs and ensures accountability through citizen participation and rigorous performance measurement.

Funding for CDBG is critical to ensuring our nation’s economic recovery continues, creating jobs and providing public services in states and localities across the nation. However, in spite of the program’s proven track record, CDBG formula funding has declined by 25 percent from FY 2010 to FY 2016, even before adjusting for inflation.

**NAHRO’s Priorities:**

- NAHRO is committed to restoring funding for CDBG to ensure the success of state and local efforts to spur job creation and retention, provide vital public services, and expand affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income families and individuals.

  - NAHRO will collaborate with a broad national coalition to measure CDBG’s impact on local communities and demonstrate the importance of maintaining our national investment in the program.

- NAHRO will continue to oppose any efforts to change program eligibility thresholds that would reduce existing grantees’ ability to access these critical resources.

- NAHRO will work to secure additional resources needed in order for grantees to fulfill their Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) requirements, and continue to advocate for methods that reduce administrative burden, such as a streamlined AFH tool for small grantees.
Homeless Assistance Grants

IN THE PAST DECADE, the federal government has made addressing homelessness a top priority. Congress enacted and the President signed the Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH) in 2009, resulting in a major overhaul of HUD’s McKinney-Vento homeless assistance programs. The Obama administration recently solidified its commitment by setting goals to end veteran homelessness by 2015, chronic homelessness by 2017, family homelessness by 2020, and to set a path to end all homelessness.

NAHRO strongly supported many of HEARTH’s important reforms, including new flexibility to prevent at-risk families from falling into homelessness and an expanded HUD definition of homelessness that is better aligned with other agency definitions. However, HEARTH mandated programmatic reforms has been hamstrung by inadequate funding, and the not-too-distant economic crisis has revealed the importance of adequate program funding.

NAHRO’s Homeless Assistance Grants Priorities:

- NAHRO supports full funding for HUD’s homeless assistance programs and recognizes the need for program funding to keep pace with the rising costs associated with renewing expiring contracts and implementing new initiatives that address special populations, such as homeless youth.

- NAHRO will continue to monitor the implementation of the HEARTH Act to ensure that new regulations are sensitive to local community needs.

- NAHRO will work to improve access to HUD’s homeless assistance programs in order to better position PHAs and local redevelopment authorities as full partners.

- H.R. 3700, the Housing Opportunities Through Modernization Act, includes an important measure, first advocated for by NAHRO, that would permit any state or local government receiving Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) allocations to distribute all or a portion of its grant funds to PHAs (alongside private nonprofit organizations).