November 9, 2015

The Honorable Julian Castro  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development  
451 7th Street SW  
Washington, DC  20410

Dear Secretary Castro:

The undersigned organizations, members of the CDBG Coalition, are writing to urge you to act on two issues of importance to us: (1) the FY17 HUD Budget request for CDBG; and (2) the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule and Assessment of Fair Housing Tool.

In the FY 2016 budget, HUD requested $2.8 billion for CDBG, a $200 million cut below what Congressional appropriators approved in FY 2015. CDBG is a vital resource for State and local governments and their non-profit partners we urge you to request no less than $3.3 billion for CDBG in the FY 2017 HUD budget, the amount being advocated by the CDBG Coalition.

Our second request focuses on the fairing housing rule and assessment tool. Both the rule and the tool are expansive and will take time and resources to implement. With that being said, HUD must provide financial resources for CDBG grantees to undertake this effort. The CDBG program has been cut by nearly $1 billion dollars since FY10 and grantees cannot take on this extra administrative burden without adequate financial resources to offset their staff costs. Further, small CDBG grantees must be afforded a streamlined tool. Finally, grantees need clear assurance that they have met HUD’s requirements of the rule and the tool.

We look forward to hearing back from you regarding our requests and are available to meet with you to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,

American Planning Association  
National Association for County Community and Economic Development  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials  
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies  
National Community Development Association  
National Recreation and Park Association  
Rebuilding Together  
U.S. Conference of Mayors