April 27, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coalition, we urge you to include additional resources for the CDBG program in the next coronavirus response package. The CDBG Coalition consists of 30 national associations dedicated to supporting the Community Development Block (CDBG) Program through education and advocacy. Our organizations represent elected officials, state and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, and advocates.

We thank you for including $5 billion for the CDBG program in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). This funding will be critical to helping communities respond to coronavirus and its economic impact. The CDBG CARES Act funding (CDBG-CV grants) will provide financial resources to sustain small businesses, assist low and moderate-income families, and support nonprofit organizations and homeless shelters with their assistance efforts.

Small businesses employ nearly half of all Americans and are important to the national, regional, and local economies decimated by COVID-19. Their closure during the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in lost wages, reduced goods and services, and a deep reduction in local tax revenue. CDBG can be a critical link in helping small businesses recover from the pandemic. CDBG complements and supports the Paycheck Protection Program and other SBA loan programs by ensuring small businesses are loan ready and by providing gap funding in the form of working capital grants to small businesses while they await approval of the SBA loans.

Millions of Americans remain unemployed due to COVID-19 and more CDBG funding is needed to help struggling low and moderate-income people pay their rent, mortgage, and utilities. The CDBG program can also assist in funding a wide variety of public services to help communities and people impacted by COVID-19. Additional CDBG funding is needed to provide food assistance (food banks, food distribution), fund mental health and domestic violence counseling, and resources for nonprofit organizations assisting with COVID-19 response efforts.

With the continuation of the pandemic and the sharp decline in state and local government revenue, more CDBG funding is needed to help communities continue to address this crisis. We urge you to support additional funding for CDBG in the next coronavirus response package.

Sincerely,
American Library Association
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Enterprise Community Partners
Housing Assistance Council
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders
National Association of Counties
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Association of Regional Councils
National Community Development Association
National League of Cities
National Main Street Center
National NeighborWorks Association
National Recreation and Park Association
National Rural Water Association
Rebuilding Together
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
The Trust for Public Land
YWCA USA