



September 30, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Room S-128 Capitol Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-128 The Capitol Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 Capitol Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 Capitol Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chairwoman  
Senate Appropriations Transportation-Housing  
and Urban Development Subcommittee 184  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Transportation-Housing  
and Urban Development Subcommittee 125  
Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable David Price  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Transportation-Housing  
and Urban Development Subcommittee 2358-A  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Transportation-Housing  
and Urban Development Subcommittee 2358-  
A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairwoman Collins, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Price, and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

In recent weeks, House and Senate Appropriations committees have approved their respective Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bills for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coalition is grateful to appropriators for rejecting the Administration's request to eliminate key housing and community development programs under HUD. However, level funding for these programs, especially CDBG, prolongs local development needs. As the bill moves forward, we urge appropriators to reflect budgetary increases under the new two-year agreement and make further investments in CDBG.

A wide array of community needs exist throughout the country and additional federal support is long overdue. As described in the CDBG Coalition's [2019 National Report](#), states and localities continue to fall further behind in maintaining quality infrastructure and services. CDBG serves as one of the few sources of federal assistance for local development priorities, however requests for CDBG funding consistently outweigh available resources. Over the history of the program, CDBG has received reduced funding (\$1.1 billion cut since FY2001) while grantees have more than doubled (1,268 in FY2019) since the program's inception. These factors coupled with a growing list of needs in affordable housing, water and wastewater facilities, and transportation, among many others, have compounded issues over many years. A further decline in spending - or even level funding - will result in fewer projects completed and less people served.

Again, we extend our gratitude for your efforts on FY2020 appropriations. Our coalition endorses \$3.8 billion for CDBG in FY2020 and encourages the highest possible level of funding in a final bill.

Sincerely,

American Library Association  
American Planning Association  
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities  
Council of State Community Development Agencies  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Feeding America  
Habitat for Humanity International  
Heartland Alliance  
International Code Council  
International Economic Development 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  
National Urban League  
Rebuilding Together  
Rural Community Assistance Partnership  
The Trust for Public Land  
U.S. Conference of Mayors  
YWCA USA

