



TO: Biden Administration Transition Team

FROM: The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coalition

DATE: December 1, 2020

RE: Support for Renewed Investment in the CDBG Program

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coalition encompasses national organizations working to improve rural, suburban, and urban areas and the lives of low- and moderate-income people including women, youth, families, and communities of color through programs, services, education, and advocacy. We stand ready to work with the Biden Administration to help communities recover from the coronavirus pandemic and address vital unmet infrastructure, affordable housing, economic

has never been able to meet its initial funding amount of \$2.4 billion in 1975 when adjusted for inflation. Its highest-ever annual appropriation amount was \$4.4 billion in FY2001. Since then, spending has declined tremendously even with the latest annual funding reaching \$3.3 billion in FY19 and \$3.425 billion in FY20. Also featured in the report is a survey of state and local grantees which found that requests for funds consistently outweigh available grant dollars. Overall, annual funds have not kept up with the rising demands and costs of maintenance to roads, utility replacements, housing repairs, and similar needs shared by urban and rural communities alike. We ask you to support robust funding for CDBG in the Biden Administration's FY22 budget request to Congress.

We also ask you to include funding for CDBG in future infrastructure investments and provide additional funding to CDBG to help communities address the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. State and local governments have effectively used the CDBG CARES Act funding to provide working capital to small businesses, rent/mortgage/utility assistance to families impacted economically by the pandemic, and funds to food banks and homeless shelters, to name a few.

CDBG remains a prime resource for state and local governments to improve quality of life and economic outcomes for their residents. Further investment would mean better infrastructure, more jobs, increased access to key services, and additional units of affordable housing. CDBG provides an important and tested program to rebuilding our nation and promoting people where they live.

We respectfully request a meeting with the Biden Transition Team to introduce the CDBG Coalition, our work, and our priorities. Please reach out to Vicki Watson at [vwatson@ncdaonline.org](mailto:vwatson@ncdaonline.org) or Josh Shumaker at [jshumaker@coscda.org](mailto:jshumaker@coscda.org) to schedule the meeting.

We look forward to working with the Biden Administration to build healthy, viable communities through increased CDBG investment.

Sincerely,

American Library Association  
American Planning Association  
Boys and Girls Clubs of America  
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities  
Council of State Community Development Agencies  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Feeding America  
Habitat for Humanity International  
Heartland Alliance  
Housing Assistance Council  
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

