April 27, 2020

RE: Prioritization/Increased funding for the CDBG Program in the FY 2021 THUD Spending Bill

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
THUD Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Price  
Chair  
THUD Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
THUD Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
THUD Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Collins, Senator Reed, Representative Price, and Representative Diaz-Balart:

As you craft the FY 2021 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) spending bill, our organizations ask you to prioritize and increase funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The CDBG Coalition consists of 30 national associations dedicated to supporting the CDBG Program through education and advocacy. We represent local elected officials, state and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, and advocates.

The CDBG program is a dynamic federal grant program that supports sustaining healthy, functioning communities. It remains the principal source of federal revenue for states and localities and their program partners to use in developing and implementing community development solutions. Communities use CDBG to respond to current and emerging community development needs, including business development and retention, improvement of existing housing, delivery of vital public services, and the development of infrastructure. The program serves every corner of the country; more than 1,200 state and local government grantees receive CDBG funding and an estimated additional 7,250 local governments have access to the program funding.

As outlined in the CDBG Coalition Report last year, the program has been cut by $1 billion since FY 2001 and has never been adjusted for inflation even though program costs rise annually. This has resulted in dwindling CDBG resources for grantees to meet local affordable housing, infrastructure, and public services needs important to low and moderate-income families and local economies. The 2019 CDBG Coalition survey also found that CDBG grantees annually receive far more applications for funding than can be met with their current CDBG allocation; with most estimating that over half of the CDBG annual funding requests received are not funded. **We ask you to support this important program by prioritizing funding for CDBG and supporting no less than $3.8 billion in formula funding for the program in the FY 2021 THUD spending bill.**

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
U.S. Conference of Mayors
YWCA USA