

**The US Conference of Mayors Staff
Budget Highlights of Key City Priorities
in the
President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Proposal
May 8, 2009**

INCREASES/NEW PROGRAMS

The Conference is pleased that the President's budget includes significant increases for a number of key city priorities and creates several new programs that will address the needs urban areas. The following highlights some of the key programs.

- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**—The overall Community Development Fund would be increased from \$3.9 billion to \$4.5 billion in FY 2010. Of that amount, formula grants provided to local governments to promote community and economic development would be increased from \$3.6 billion to \$4.1 billion. The proposal also calls for reforms to modernize the CDBG formula.
- **Choice Neighborhoods**—A new HUD program would be created and funded at \$250 million to provide comprehensive grants to transform neighborhoods experiencing extreme poverty. This program replaces HOPE VI, which provides assistance to local communities to revitalize severely distress public housing.
- **Housing Trust Fund**—Another new HUD program would be established and funded at \$1 billion for the production, preservation, and rehabilitation of housing for extremely low-income and very low-income families.
- **Sustainable Communities Initiatives**—A third new HUD initiative would be funded at \$150 million to improve coordination of transportation and housing investments that result in more regional and local sustainable development patterns, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and more transit-accessible housing choices for residents.
- **Law Enforcement**—COPS hiring grants would be funded at \$298 million in FY 2010; no funding was included for this program in the FY 2009 regular appropriations bill. Funding for Second Chance Act/Prisoner Reentry would increase from \$25 million this year to \$100 million next year for programs administered by the Office of Justice Programs. In addition, \$13.8 million is provided for the Bureau of Prisons. Funding for crime fighting technologies would increase from \$187 million this year to \$306 million. This funding includes \$151 million for DNA capacity-building, training, and technical assistance grants to state and local governments as well as innovative research on DNA analysis and the use of forensic evidence.

- **Homeland Security First Responder Programs**—Funding for State Homeland Security Grants would increase seven percent from \$890 million this year to \$950 million next year. Urban Area Security Initiative Grants would increase six percent from \$837 million this year to \$887 million next year.
- **High-Speed Rail Corridors and Intercity Passenger Rail**—The President’s budget builds on the \$8 billion included in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) for high-speed and intercity passenger rail by including \$1 billion for capital grants to invest in high-speed rail capacity. Also funding for Amtrak would increase from \$1.4 billion to \$1.5 billion.
- **Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund/Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund**—Funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund would be dramatically increased from \$689 million in the current fiscal year to \$2.4 billion in FY 2009. The Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund would also be increased from \$829 million to \$1.5 billion. The Conference of Mayors remains concerned about the state distribution system and will continue to work to get more funds for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure allocated directly to cities.

KEY CONCERNS

Listed below are several city priorities that have been proposed for eliminations, reductions, or programs that would receive no funds in the FY 2010 budget. The Conference will continue to work with mayors to urge the Administration and Congress to provide adequate funding for these critical programs.

- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants**—The budget request referenced the \$3.2 billion appropriated under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act for the EECBG program. However, the official FY 2010 budget request does not include additional funds for EECBG, which was authorized in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to be funded at \$2 billion annually.
- **Law Enforcement**—Funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) (funded at \$400 million this year) would be eliminated.
- **Homeland Security First Responder Programs**—Funding for Emergency Operations Centers (at \$35 million this year), Inter-city Bus Security (at \$12 million this year) and trucking security (at \$8 million this year) would be eliminated. Funding for transportation and infrastructure protection would be reduced from \$862 million this year to \$550 million next year.
- **Community Development Loan Guarantees (Section 108)**—Funding for the Section 108 Loan Guarantee program, currently funded at \$275 million, would be eliminated in FY 2010.