May 23, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressional Leaders:

We, the undersigned members of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, urge you to support the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program at $3.3 billion as you develop the FY2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriation bill. CDBG is one of the most effective federal programs for growing local economies and for providing a lifeline to families and communities with proven results.

Since FY 2005, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has collected accomplishment data for the CDBG program. The data highlights the program’s flexibility to design and implement strategies tailored to meet local needs and priorities. It has provided funds in every state, including housing investments, public infrastructure improvements, and economic development, while also providing public services, including services for seniors, youth, the disabled, and employment training.

Despite being a key tool for aiding our communities, the CDBG program, like many programs, has taken a share of deep cuts in recent years, falling substantially—by nearly $1.4 billion since FY2001. This program helps more than 1,200 cities, counties, states, and rural areas that meet the needs of low- and moderate-income people and communities, funding cuts have severely weakened the ability of grantees to revitalize their communities and respond to local need.
We share your commitment to the most effective use of taxpayer dollars, and believe that these grants have proven highly effective. Based on the data that grantees have reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development over the past nine years (FY2005 – FY2016), CDBG has:

- Helped over 1.3 million low- and moderate-income persons through single-family, owner-occupied rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, energy-efficient improvements, and lead-based abatement, among other activities;

- Created or retained 387,109 jobs for low- and moderate-income people through a variety of economic development activities;

- Benefited over 42 million low- and moderate-income persons through public improvements including senior centers, child care centers, and centers for people with disabilities;

- Benefited over 133 million low- and moderate-income persons through public services such as employment training, meals and other services to the elderly, services for abused and neglected children, assistance to local food banks, and other services;

- Helped Seniors Live Independently. CDBG funds are used to rehabilitate the homes of low- and moderate-income elderly persons to allow them to age in place, thereby, avoiding costly assisted living and nursing home care. CDBG provides resources to Meals on Wheels and other local food programs to ensure our low- and moderate-income seniors receive daily nourishment and contact. Further, CDBG funds are used to build community centers to allow seniors to receive health and recreational services to stay engaged and healthy;

- Strengthened Families and Communities through Homeownership. CDBG funds are used to assist credit worthy, working families with down payment and closing cost assistance to purchase a home. Homeownership stabilizes neighborhoods, allows families to build assets, and adds to the local tax base;

- Created Safer Communities. Local communities use CDBG to work with local police departments and neighborhood leaders to fight crime and make neighborhoods safer places to live and work by creating and expanding neighborhood watch groups, making safety improvements to homes and businesses, and encouraging local police sub-stations to move into high crime areas;

- Invested in Our Next Generation. Local communities use CDBG funds to provide afterschool programs to low-income children, summer jobs for low-income youth, and build recreation centers to provide a safe outlet for learning, sports and personal growth.
Additionally, every $1.00 of CDBG leverages an additional $3.65 in non-CDBG funding.

CDBG makes its way into the local economy through an extensive network of local organizations and remains a lifeline for families and communities. It is one federal program that touches the lives of nearly every American in some fashion. Over 7,200 communities have access to the funds and rely on the program to enhance their life and community. Every State, Territory, and Congressional District receives or has access to CDBG funds. The pressing need in the current economy for these funds remains critical.

While we understand the difficult fiscal decisions you must make in Washington, we appreciate your consideration of this important request and strongly urge you to support at least $3.3 billion for the CDBG program in FY18 to help grow local economies.

Sincerely,

Mick Cornett
President, U.S. Conference of Mayors
Mayor of Oklahoma City

Mitchell Landrieu
Vice President, U.S. Conference of Mayors
Mayor of New Orleans

Stephen K. Benjamin
Second Vice President, U.S. Conference of Mayors
Mayor of Columbia (SC)

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
U.S. Conference of Mayors
Additional mayors who have signed onto this letter:

Birmingham (AL) Mayor William A. Bell, Sr.
Decatur (AL) Mayor Tab Bowling
Florence (AL) Mayor Steve Holt
Gadsden (AL) Mayor Sherman Guyton
Montgomery (AL) Mayor Todd Strange
Prattville (AL) Mayor Bill Gillespie, Jr.
Tuscaloosa (AL) Mayor Walter Maddox
Anchorage (AK) Mayor Ethan Berkowitz
Casa Grande (AZ) Mayor Craig H. McFarland
Chandler (AZ) Mayor Jay Tibshraeny
El Mirage (AZ) Mayor Lana Mook
Glendale (AZ) Mayor Jerry Weiers
Goodyear (AZ) Mayor Georgia Lord
Lake Havasu City (AZ) Mayor Mark S. Nexsen
Mesa (AZ) Mayor John Giles
Phoenix (AZ) Mayor Greg Stanton
Tempe (AZ) Mayor Mark W. Mitchell
Tucson (AZ) Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
Conway (AR) Mayor Bart Castleberry
Fayetteville (AR) Mayor Lioneld Jordan
Fort Smith (AR) Mayor Sandy Sanders
Jonesboro (AR) Mayor Harold Perrin
Little Rock (AR) Mayor Mark Stodola
North Little Rock (AR) Mayor Joe A. Smith
Pine Bluff (AR) Mayor Shirley Washington
Texarkana (AR) Mayor Ruth Penney Bell
West Memphis (AR) Mayor William H. Johnson
Alameda (CA) Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer
Baldwin Park (CA) Mayor Manuel Lozano
Calexico (CA) Mayor Armando Real
Cerritos (CA) Mayor Grace Hu
Citrus Heights (CA) Mayor Jeff Slowey
Campbell (CA) Mayor Elizabeth 'Liz' Gibbons, AIA
Cathedral City (CA) Mayor Stanley E. Henry
Claremont (CA) Mayor Larry Schroeder
Colton (CA) Mayor Richard Delarosa
Costa Mesa (CA) Mayor Katrina Foley
Cupertino (CA) Mayor Savita Vaidhyanathan
Downey (CA) Mayor Fernando Vasquez
Dublin (CA) Mayor David Haubert
Encinitas (CA) Mayor Catherine Blakespear
Fontana (CA) Mayor Acquanetta Warren
Fremont (CA) Mayor Lily Mei
Fresno (CA) Mayor Lee Brand
Goleta (CA) Mayor Paula Perotte
Hemet (CA) Mayor Linda Krupa
Indio (CA) Mayor Elaine Holmes
La Verne (CA) Mayor Donald Kendrick
Laguna Niguel (CA) Mayor Jerry Slusiewicz
Lodi (CA) Mayor Doug Kuehne
Long Beach (CA) Mayor Robert Garcia
Los Angeles (CA) Mayor Eric Garcetti
Menifee (CA) Mayor Neil R. Winter
Milpitas (CA) Mayor Rich Tran
Monrovia (CA) Mayor Tom Adams
Napa (CA) Mayor Jill Techel
Newark (CA) Mayor Alan Nagy
Oceanside (CA) Mayor Jim Wood
Oakland (CA) Mayor Libby Schaaf
Oakley (CA) Mayor Sue Higgins
Paramount (CA) Mayor Peggy Lemons
Rancho Cordova (CA) Mayor Donald Terry
Redondo Beach (CA) Mayor William C. Brand
Richmond (CA) Mayor Tom Butt
Salinas (CA) Mayor Joseph Gunter
San Bernardino (CA) Mayor R. Carey Davis
San Bruno (CA) Mayor Jim Ruane
San Francisco (CA) Mayor Edwin Lee
San Gabriel (CA) Mayor Juli Costanzo
San Jose (CA) Mayor Sam Liccardo
San Leandro (CA) Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter
Santa Ana (CA) Mayor Miguel A. Pulido
Santa Barbara (CA) Mayor Helene Schneider
Santa Cruz (CA) Mayor Cynthia Chase
Santa Monica (CA) Mayor Ted Winterer
Santee (CA) Mayor John W. Minto
Sunnyvale (CA) Mayor Glenn Hendricks
Thousand Oaks (CA) Mayor Claudia Bill-de la Peña
Torrance (CA) Mayor Patrick J. Furey
Union City (CA) Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci
Vista (CA) Mayor Judy Ritter
Walnut Creek (CA) Mayor Richard G. Carlston
West Hollywood (CA) Mayor John Heilman
West Sacramento (CA) Mayor Christopher Cabaldon
Boulder (CO) Mayor Suzanne Jones
Denver (CO) Mayor Michael B. Hancock
Lakewood (CO) Mayor Adam Paul
Bridgeport (CT) Mayor Joseph P. Ganim
East Hartford (CT) Mayor Marcia Lederer
Fairfield (CT) Mayor Michael C. Tetreau
Hamden (CT) Mayor Curt Balzano Leng
Hartford (CT) Mayor Luke Bronin
New Britain (CT) Mayor Erin E. Stewart
Stamford (CT) Mayor David Martin
Wilmington (DE) Mayor Michael S. Purzycki
Washington (D.C.) Mayor Muriel Bowser
Apopka (FL) Mayor Joe Kilsheimer
Boynton Beach (FL) Mayor Steven B. Grant
Cape Coral (FL) Mayor Marni L. Sawicki
Davie (FL) Mayor Judy Paul
Gainesville (FL) Mayor Lauren Poe
Hallandale Beach (FL) Mayor Joy F. Cooper
Hollywood (FL) Mayor Josh Levy
Kissimmee (FL) Mayor Jose Alvarez
Lauderhill (FL) Mayor Richard J Kaplan
Miramar (FL) Mayor Wayne M. Messam
Orlando (FL) Mayor Buddy Dyer
Palm Bay (FL) Mayor William Capote
Pembroke Pines (FL) Mayor Frank C. Ortis
Pensacola (FL) Mayor Ashton Hayward
Pinellas Park (FL) Mayor Sandra Bradbury
Plantation (FL) Mayor Diane Veltri Bendekovic
Pompano Beach (FL) Mayor Lamar Fisher
Port St. Lucie (FL) Mayor Gregory J. Oravec
St. Petersburg (FL) Mayor Rick Kriseman
Sunrise (FL) Mayor Mike Ryan
Tampa (FL) Mayor Bob Buckhorn
West Palm Beach (FL) Mayor Jeri Muoio
Atlanta (GA) Mayor Kasim Reed
Augusta (GA) Mayor Hardie Davis, Jr.
College Park (GA) Mayor Jack P. Longino
Columbus (GA) Mayor Teresa Tomlinson
Macon-Bibb (GA) Mayor Robert Reichert
Rome (GA) Mayor Jamie Doss
Sandy Springs (GA) Mayor Russell K. Paul
Lihue, Kauai (HI) Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho
Wailuku (HI) Mayor Alan M. Arakawa
Boise (ID) Mayor David Bieter
Lewiston (ID) Mayor James Kleeburg
Decatur (IL) Mayor Julie Moore-Wolfe
Dolton (IL) Mayor Riley H. Rogers
Elgin (IL) Mayor David Kaptain
Gurnee (IL) Mayor Kristina Kovarik
Hoffman Estates (IL) Mayor Bill McLeod
Normal (IL) Mayor Chris Koos
Oak Lawn (IL) Mayor Dr. Sandra Bury
Rockford (IL) Mayor Thomas P. McNamara
Urbana (IL) Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin
Village of Hanover Park (IL) Mayor Rodney Craig
Carmel (IN) Mayor James Brainard
Fort Wayne (IN) Mayor Thomas Henry
Gary (IN) Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson
Indianapolis (IN) Mayor Joe Hogsett
Muncie (IN) Mayor Dennis Tyler
South Bend (IN) Mayor Pete Buttigieg
Council Bluffs (IA) Mayor Matt Walsh
Des Moines (IA) Mayor Frank Cownie
Dubuque (IA) Mayor Roy D. Buol
Iowa City (IA) Mayor Jim Throgmorton
Lawrence (KS) Mayor Leslie Soden
Topeka (KS) Mayor Larry Wolgast
Ashland (KY) Mayor Stephen E. Gilmore
Louisville (KY) Mayor Greg Fischer
Baton Rouge (LA) Mayor Sharon Weston Broome
Bossier City (LA) Mayor Lorenz Walker
Lafayette (LA) Mayor Joel Robideaux
Monroe (LA) Mayor Jamie Mayo
Shreveport (LA) Mayor Ollie S. Tyler
Bangor (ME) Mayor Joseph M. Baldacci
Lewiston (ME) Mayor Robert E. Macdonald
Portland (ME) Mayor Ethan K. Strimling
College Park (MD) Mayor Patrick Wojahn
Salisbury (MD) Mayor Jake Day
Attleboro (MA) Mayor Kevin J. Dumas
Boston (MA) Mayor Martin J. Walsh
Everett (MA) Mayor Carlo DeMaria
Fitchburg (MA) Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale
Medford (MA) Mayor Stephanie M. Burke
New Bedford (MA) Mayor Jon Mitchell
Newton (MA) Mayor Setti Warren
Springfield (MA) Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
Westfield (MA) Mayor Brian P. Sullivan
Brownstown Township (MI) Mayor Andrew Linko
Burton (MI) Mayor Paula Zelenko
Gibraltar (MI) Mayor James F. Gorris
Grand Rapids (MI) Mayor Rosalynn Bliss
Kalamazoo (MI) Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
Lansing (MI) Mayor Virgil Bernero
Muskegon (MI) Mayor Stephen J. Gawron
Pontiac (MI) Mayor Dr. Deirdre Waterman
Rochester Hills (MI) Mayor Bryan K. Barnett
Saginaw (MI) Mayor Dennis D. Browning
Southfield (MI) Mayor Kenson Siver
Westland (MI) Mayor William R. Wild
Brooklyn Center (MN) Mayor Tim Wilson
Burnsville (MN) Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz
Duluth (MN) Mayor Emily Larson
Eden Prairie (MN) Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens
Minneapolis (MN) Mayor Betsy Hodges
Rochester (MN) Mayor Ardell F. Brede
Biloxi (MS) Mayor Andrew Gilich
Hattiesburg (MS) Mayor Johnny L. DuPree
Jackson (MS) Mayor Tony T. Yarber
Columbia (MO) Mayor Brian Treece
Kansas City (MO) Mayor Sylvester "Sly" James, Jr.
St. Louis (MO) Mayor Lyda Krewson
Butte-Silver Bow (MT) Mayor Dave Palmer
Bellevue (NE) Mayor Rita Sanders
Lincoln (NE) Mayor Chris Beutler
City of North Las Vegas (NV) Mayor John J. Lee
Henderson (NV) Mayor Andy Hafen
Las Vegas (NV) Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman
Reno (NV) Mayor Hillary Schieve
Dover (NH) Mayor Karen Weston
Clifton (NJ) Mayor James Anzaldi
East Orange (NJ) Mayor Lester E. Taylor III
Elizabeth (NJ) Mayor J. Christian Bollwage
Fort Lee (NJ) Mayor Mark J. Sokolich
Kearny (NJ) Mayor Alberto G. Santos
Montclair (NJ) Mayor Robert D. Jackson
North Brunswick (NJ) Mayor Francis M. Womack
Paterson (NJ) Mayor Jose 'joey' Torres
Piscataway (NJ) Mayor Brian C. Wahler
Las Cruces (NM) Mayor Ken D. Miyagishima
Santa Fe (NM) Mayor Javier M. Gonzales
Sunland Park (NM) Mayor Javier Perea
Albany (NY) Mayor Kathy Sheehan
Binghamton (NY) Mayor Richard David
Buffalo (NY) Mayor Byron W. Brown
New Rochelle (NY) Mayor Noam Bramson
New York (NY) Mayor Bill de Blasio
Niagara Falls (NY) Mayor Paul Dyster
Rochester (NY) Mayor Lovely Warren
Schenectady (NY) Mayor Gary McCarthy
Syracuse (NY) Mayor Stephanie Miner
White Plains (NY) Mayor Thomas Roach
Asheville (NC) Mayor Esther Manheimer
Chapel Hill (NC) Mayor Pam Hemminger
Charlotte (NC) Mayor Jennifer Roberts
Durham (NC) Mayor William "Bill" Bell
Mooresville (NC) Mayor Miles Atkins
North Wilkesboro (NC) Mayor Robert L. Johnson
Raleigh (NC) Mayor Nancy McFarlane
Winston-Salem (NC) Mayor J. Allen Joines
Fargo (ND) Mayor Tim Mahoney
Grand Forks (ND) Mayor Michael R. Brown
Akron (OH) Mayor Daniel Horrigan
Cincinnati (OH) Mayor John Cranley
Cleveland (OH) Mayor Frank G. Jackson
Columbus (OH) Mayor Andrew J. Ginther
Dayton (OH) Mayor Nan Whaley
Euclid (OH) Mayor Kirsten H. Gail
Findlay (OH) Mayor Lydia Mihalik
Kettering (OH) Mayor Don Patterson
Lima (OH) Mayor David Berger
Lorain (OH) Mayor Chase Ritenauer
Massillon (OH) Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry
North Ridgeville (OH) Mayor G. David Gillock
Warrensville Heights (OH) Mayor Brad Sellers
Youngstown (OH) Mayor John A. McNally
Edmond (OK) Mayor Charles Lamb
Lawton (OK) Mayor Fred Fitch
Midwest City (OK) Mayor Matt Dukes
Albany (OR) Mayor Sharon Konopa
Beaverton (OR) Mayor Denny Doyle
Corvallis (OR) Mayor Biff Traber
Eugene (OR) Mayor Lucy Vinis
Gresham (OR) Mayor Shane Bemis
Salem (OR) Mayor Chuck Bennett
Springfield (OR) Mayor Christine L. Lundberg
Tigard (OR) Mayor John L. Cook
Allentown (PA) Mayor Ed Pawlowski
Bensalem Township (PA) Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo
Bethlehem (PA) Mayor Robert J. Donchez
Chester (PA) Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland
Erie (PA) Mayor Joseph E. Sinnott
Lancaster (PA) Mayor J. Richard Gray
Philadelphia (PA) Mayor Jim Kenney
Pittsburgh (PA) Mayor William Peduto
York (PA) Mayor C. Kim Bracey
Adjuntas (PR) Mayor Jaime H. Barlucea Maldonado
Bayamon (PR) Mayor Ramon Luis Rivera Cruz
Camuy (PR) Mayor Edwin García-Feliciano
Cayey (PR) Mayor Rolando Ortiz-Velázquez
Cidra (PR) Mayor Javiel Carrasquillo
Dorado (PR) Mayor Carlos A. López Rivera
Gurabo (PR) Mayor Rosachely Rivera Santana
Humacao (PR) Mayor Marcelo Trujillo-Panissee
Las Marías (PR) Mayor Edwin Soto Santiago
Mayaguez (PR) Mayor José Guillermo Rodríguez
Moca (PR) Mayor Jose E. Aviles-Santiago
San German (PR) Mayor Isidro Negron-Irizarry
San Sebastian (PR) Mayor Javier D. Jimenez Perez
Vega Alta (PR) Mayor Óscar Santiago Martinez
Yabucoa (PR) Mayor Rafael Surillo
Central Falls (RI) Mayor James A. Diossa
Charleston (SC) Mayor John J. Tecklenburg
Greenville (SC) Mayor Knox White
Hilton Head Island (SC) Mayor David G. Bennett
Rock Hill (SC) Mayor Doug Echols
Sumter (SC) Mayor Joe McElveen
Rapid City (SD) Mayor Steve Allender
Clarksville (TN) Mayor Kim McMillan
Knoxville (TN) Mayor Madeline Rogero
Memphis (TN) Mayor Jim Strickland
Nashville (TN) Mayor Megan Barry
Arlington (TX) Mayor W. Jeff Williams
Austin (TX) Mayor Steve Adler
Beaumont (TX) Mayor Becky Ames
College Station (TX) Mayor Dr. Karl Mooney
Denton (TX) Mayor Chris Watts
Dallas (TX) Mayor Mike Rawlings
Galveston (TX) Mayor James D. Yarbrough
Houston (TX) Mayor Sylvester Turner
Killeen (TX) Mayor Jose Segarra
Lewisville (TX) Mayor Rudy Durham
Longview (TX) Mayor Andy Mack
McAllen (TX) Mayor Jim Darling
Mission (TX) Mayor Norberto "Beto" Salinas
North Richland Hills (TX) Mayor Oscar Trevino
Plano (TX) Mayor Harry LaRosiliere
Port Arthur (TX) Mayor Derrick Freeman
San Marcos (TX) Mayor John Thomaides
Logan (UT) Mayor H. Craig Petersen
Midvale City (UT) Mayor JoAnn B. Seghini
Salt Lake City (UT) Mayor Jackie Biskupski
Tooele (UT) Mayor Patrick Dunlavy
West Jordan (UT) Mayor Kim V. Rolff
Burlington (VT) Mayor Miro Weinberger
Alexandria (VA) Mayor Allison Silberberg
Blacksburg (VA) Mayor Ron Rordam
Newport News (VA) Mayor McKinley L. Price, DDS
Richmond (VA) Mayor Levar M. Stoney
Auburn (WA) Mayor Nancy Backus
Bremerton (WA) Mayor Patty Lent
Longview (WA) Mayor Don Jensen
Olympia (WA) Mayor Cheryl Selby
Pullman (WA) Mayor Glenn A. Johnson
Redmond (WA) Mayor John Marchione
Shoreline (WA) Mayor Chris Roberts
Tacoma (WA) Mayor Marilyn Strickland
Tukwila (WA) Mayor Allan Ekberg
Vancouver (WA) Mayor Timothy D. Leavitt
Wheeling (WV) Mayor Mr. Glenn Elliott
Green Bay (WI) Mayor James J. Schmitt
Greenfield (WI) Mayor Michael Neitzke
Kenosha (WI) Mayor John Antaramian
La Crosse (WI) Mayor Timothy Kabat
Madison (WI) Mayor Paul R. Soglin
Milwaukee (WI) Mayor Tom Barrett
Oshkosh (WI) Mayor Steve Cummings
Sheboygan (WI) Mayor Mike Vandersteen
Waukesha (WI) Mayor Shawn N. Reilly
Wauwatosa (WI) Mayor Kathy Ehley
West Allis (WI) Mayor Dan Devine
Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Mayor Zachary J. Vruwink
Casper (WY) Mayor Kenyne Humphrey
Green River (WY) Mayor Pete Rust
Gillette (WY) Mayor Louise Carter-King