

Office of the Mayor
Harvey Johnson, Jr., Mayor



219 South President Street
Post Office Box 17
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017
Telephone: 601-960-1084
Facsimile: 601-960-2193

February 28, 2011

RECEIVED

MAR 07 2011

Development Assistance Division

The Honorable Thad Cochran
U. S. Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Funding Threats to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Dear Senator Cochran:

I am writing to express the City of Jackson's strong support for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and voice strong opposition to any threatened major cuts or possible elimination of this program in FY11 or FY12. The proposed budget cuts to the CDBG Program, particularly the 62.5% cut proposed in H.R.1, would have devastating consequences for our communities. This Department and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program creates homeownership, supports neighborhood revitalization, aids nonprofit public service agencies assisting those individuals most in need, and provides economic development assistance to small businesses through the creation and retention of jobs. These activities not only help individual communities, but also strengthen both our local and nation's economy as a whole.

CDBG is one of the most effective Federal domestic programs to revitalize neighborhoods with proven results. Congress created CDBG to consolidate a number of complex and overlapping financial assistance programs in order to encourage community development activities which are consistent with comprehensive local planning. Coupled with HUD's housing and homeless programs, CDBG provides communities with a comprehensive approach which help states, cities and rural communities address the needs of our low- and moderate-income citizens.

I am providing you with a Fact Sheet which goes into further detail regarding the accomplishments of CDBG within our community over the past five years. This combination of CDBG with other resources adds to our local economy through the purchase of goods and services and adds to the betterment of our local citizenry through improved neighborhoods, expanded public services and economic development stimulation.

We ask you to oppose any legislation that would eliminate the CDBG Program or significantly reduce funding in FY 2111 or FY 2112.

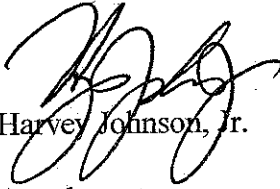
The Honorable Thad Cochran

February 28, 2011

Page 2

I would like to extend an invitation to you or your staff to tour our CDBG-funded projects to see the benefits of the program first hand. We thank you, in advance, for support of CDBG. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Harvey Johnson, Jr.

Attachment

**CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
CDBG ACCOMPLISHMENTS
For the Past Five Years**

FACT SHEET

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

- **CDBG funds in the amount of \$1,837,309 were spent on economic development financial assistance to businesses. A total of 129 businesses received funding. The businesses leveraged CDBG funds by contributing a total of \$1,291,840 of their own funds.**
- **It is estimated that 240 new full-time jobs have been created as a direct result of economic development programs and 210 full-time jobs have been retained.**
- **CDBG funds in the amount of \$2,714,854 were spent on public improvements, such as the development of public facilities including street improvements, water and sewer improvements, neighborhood storm drainage, and the development of parks and recreation facilities.**
- **CDBG funds in the amount of \$1,867,791 were spent on public services, such as services for senior and youth projects, homeless, health services, employment training, services for abused and neglected children, after school programs, and services for the disabled, among others. Approximately 25 nonprofit public service agencies are funded yearly.**
- **A total of 31,559 individuals received assistance from CDBG funds expended for public services.**
- **A total of \$1,676,717 in CDBG funds were spent for housing rehabilitation assistance for low and moderate income families.**