

CALL TO ACTION

National Organizations Declare August 2011 as National Community Development Focus Month; Call Upon Members to Take Action

The following coalition of national organizations: U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, National Community Development Association, National Association for County Community and Economic Development, National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies, Council of State Community Development Agencies, American Planning Association, and Rebuilding Together declare August as “National Community Development Focus Month.” The organizations call upon their members to stage events or meetings to focus attention on the need to maintain funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program at a minimum of \$3.9 billion and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at a minimum of \$1.825 billion in the FY12 budget. Both programs were slashed in the FY11 budget; CDBG by \$600 million and HOME by over \$200 million. The CDBG program is at its lowest level, \$3.3 billion, since 1992.

With the FY12 federal appropriations underway and with a movement in Congress to decrease federal programs, CDBG and HOME are at risk of deeper discretionary spending cuts. With Congress in recess the entire month of August, our organizations call upon our individual members from across the country to band together locally to meet with congressional members to showcase the accomplishments and work of both programs in communities nationwide. Let them know exactly what will happen if these programs are reduced further.

Association members will be asked to partner with one another locally to bring a comprehensive focus on both programs. Activities should focus on making direct contact with congressional members and showcasing the accomplishments of the CDBG and HOME programs through the following actions:

- A projects tour of CDBG- and HOME-funded projects for congressional staff
- A press event involving all CDBG stakeholders
- Highlighting businesses and people who have benefitted from the programs

CDBG

Now in its 37th year, CDBG is arguably one of the Federal government’s most successful domestic programs. A recent study by HIS Global Insights of ten (10) large city and urban counties found that the \$3.9 billion in FY 2010 CDBG funding generated 120,000 jobs and contributed \$10.7 billion in Gross Domestic Product. CDBG also provides crucial funding to small and rural communities for basic infrastructure and facilities. When disaster strikes, Congress invariably turns to the CDBG program to provide relief to States, counties, and cities in times of hurricanes, floods, wild fires, and in the aftermath of the disaster on 9/11.

Facts

- In the last six years, the program has provided needed public services to nearly 74 million low- and moderate-income households through local food banks, employment training, day care assistance and after school programs for low- and moderate-income families, meals and other assistance to the elderly, and services for abused and neglected children and battered spouses, to name a few;
- In the last six years, the program has assisted approximately 865,874 low- and moderate-income homeowners with purchase assistance and funds to rehabilitate their homes;
- In the last six years, the program has created or retained 259,346 jobs for low- and moderate-income persons through a variety of economic development activities;
- For every \$1.00 dollar of CDBG an additional \$3.00 in private and public funding is leveraged;
- CDBG has been cut by over \$1 billion dollars since 1995;
- The number of grantees has grown from 594 in 1975 to 1,169 in 2011; all now sharing in a vast shrinking pie;
- Congress cut the program by 16.2% in FY 11, the largest single cut ever; and
- CDBG is now at its lowest level since 1992

HOME

Enacted into law in 1990, the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program was developed to provide resources to communities to provide decent, safe and affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. The program recently celebrated an incredible milestone – the completion of one million units of affordable housing. Prior to the creation of the HOME program, there were few options available to communities to develop affordable housing. Families lived in overcrowded situations and in unsafe housing. Working families struggled to save enough for a down payment. Communities lacked the resources needed to design large-scale affordable housing programs to address these problems.

Facts

- For every \$1.00 of HOME funding, an additional \$3.90 dollars in non-HOME funding is leveraged; and
- Since 1992, the program has improved the quality and affordability of housing for low- and moderate-income families by providing over one million units of affordable housing nationwide; and
- The program was cut by 12% in FY11

