

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing & Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Clyburn
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing & Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Womack, and Ranking Member Clyburn,

As you are aware, Congress has consistently funded the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program at \$3.3 billion for three straight fiscal years. This is \$1.1 billion below the Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 appropriation of \$4.4 billion.¹ Despite that decline, CDBG remains the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's most flexible, locally directed engine of neighborhood revitalization, enabling more than 1,200 cities and counties to pair modest federal seed money with private, state, and philanthropic capital.² We fully support the funding level included in the FY 2026 Transportation, Housing & Urban Development (THUD) bill and urge you to protect it throughout the remainder of the appropriations process.

The program's value is readily visible on the ground. Norman, Oklahoma, is using its new Consolidated Plan to finance owner-occupied housing rehabilitation and close sidewalk gaps in low-income blocks.³ New Haven, Connecticut's FY24 Action Plan leverages CDBG to transform a long-vacant Dixwell Avenue factory into a 69-unit deeply affordable housing project that will include ground-floor space for local food retail.⁴ Fayetteville, Arkansas, shaped its Grant Year 2025 Action Plan through "CDBG in the Park" listening sessions, directing funds toward emergency home-repair grants, code-compliance assistance, and storefront-façade

¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *FY 2001 Budget: Congressional Justifications for Estimates—Community Development Block Grants* (accessed July 15, 2025) (online at <https://archives.hud.gov/budget/fy01/justif/cpd/cdbg.cfm>).

² National Association of Counties, *Support Local Development and Infrastructure Projects with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program* (accessed July 15, 2025) (online at <https://www.naco.org/resources/support-local-development-and-infrastructure-projects-community-development-block-grant-1>).

³ City of Norman, *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)* (accessed July 15, 2025) (online at <https://www.normanok.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-01/CDBG%202324%20CAPER.docx>).

⁴ Patch, "Dixwell Ave Housing Plan: 69 Units, 55 Affordable, 20 Homeless" (accessed July 15, 2025) (online at <https://patch.com/connecticut/newhaven/dixwell-ave-housing-plan-69-units-55-affordable-20-homeless>).

improvements that keep small-business corridors vibrant.⁵ Columbia, South Carolina, is weatherizing aging homes, rebuilding storm-damaged streets, and offering low-interest micro-enterprise loans to small businesses along the North Main corridor, investments local leaders call “the cornerstone of rebuilding our community.”⁶

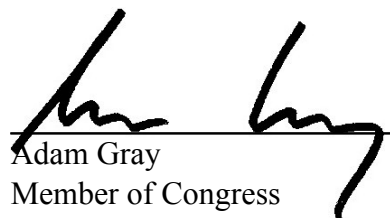
Cuts, even modest ones, would shelve shovel-ready projects in Norman, stall New Haven’s Dixwell Avenue factory conversion into deeply affordable housing, lengthen roof-repair wait-lists in Fayetteville, and dim street-lighting upgrades in Columbia. Contractors, suppliers, and nearby small businesses would feel the loss just as acutely as the low- and moderate-income residents the program is designed to serve.

CDBG is one of Washington’s most enduring bipartisan success stories. By sustaining the FY26 THUD appropriations bill’s \$3.3 billion allocation for CDBG, roofs will continue to be repaired, small businesses will stay open, and neighborhoods will thrive in every corner of the country. Thank you for your leadership and for your continued partnership with America’s communities.

Sincerely,



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



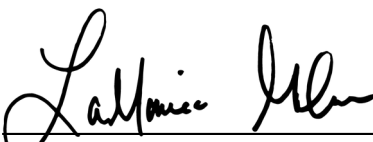
Adam Gray
Member of Congress



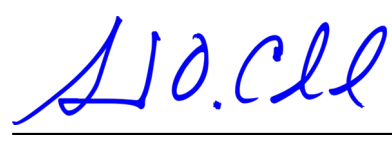
Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



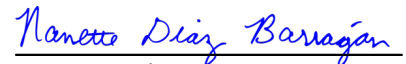
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

⁵ City of Fayetteville, Arkansas, “Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)” (accessed July 15, 2025) (online at <https://www.fayetteville-ar.gov/648/Community-Development-Block-Grant-CDBG>).

⁶ WLTX 19, “Columbia Celebrates 50 Years of Community Development; Mayor Calls Funding ‘the Cornerstone of Rebuilding Our Community’” (accessed July 15, 2025) (online at <https://www.wltx.com/article/news/local/columbia-50-years-community-development/101-6d64ec98-fc0c-478d-90e5-4e44cff64f1d>).



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress