



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

777 North Capitol Street, NE Suite 305

Washington, DC 20002

202.986.1032 (tel) 202.986.1038 (fax)

www.NARC.org

FY11 CONTINUING RESOLUTION TALKING POINTS

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Please use to guide phone conversations or in-person meetings with Congressional Members and/or staff.

IMMEDIATE ACTION: *Please support the inclusion of funding for the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)** within the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1) under development by Congress to ensure vital local and regional programs continue to boost the economy and create jobs. Currently H.R. 1 reduces CDBG by \$2.49M.*

GENERAL STATEMENTS:

- Reforms to and consolidation of federal funding and programs should be looked to in order to save money and increase government efficiency, while decreasing the national debt.
- Domestic, discretionary programs, which are only 12 percent of the federal annual budget, are critical to the ability of local governments and regions to carry out their responsibilities as service providers for both the federal and state governments.
- Due to economic challenges, local governments have experienced reduced revenue streams due to decreased taxes (primarily property and sales) and major reductions in state financial assistance, while at the same time facing an increased demand for services. As a result, local governments of all sizes and in all parts of the nation have been forced to institute significant layoffs, furloughs and service reductions, which could continue for several years to come.
- Federal assistance to state and local governments and regions will help mitigate further layoffs. Current unemployment rates are already at 9.4 percent nationally.
- Federal investment in state, local and regional infrastructure produces jobs and promotes local economic development.
- Deficit reduction should not be accomplished by shifting costs to states and local governments, imposing unfunded mandates, or pre-empting local government programs or taxing authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Please consider the following when making **Community Development Block Grant** funding determinations in the FY11 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1):

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) CDBG program provides communities with critical resources to benefit their low and moderate income populations, prevent or eliminate neighborhood blight and meet other urgent community needs. The program provides annual grants to 1,209 general units of local government and states.
- CDBG makes significant impacts in local and regional community development, with funding flowing directly from HUD to cities, towns and counties across the country, reducing time and money spent on administration.
- CDBG are used to support activities directly impacting community quality of life, including acquisition, demolition and rehabilitation of residential and community structures, activities related to energy conservation and renewable energy resources, construction of public facilities and other projects that assist small businesses in creating and retaining jobs.
- CDBG serves as a catalyst for economic recovery at the local and regional level, allowing local governments to effectively improve neighborhoods, promote viable communities and provide opportunities for businesses and families.
- Every dollar of CDBG funding leverages \$1.62 in non-CDBG funding, and created or retained 259,346 jobs for low- and moderate-income persons through a variety of economic development activities



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LOCAL/REGIONAL CONSTITUENT EXAMPLE: In our region alone, continued investment in HUD's **Community Development Block Grants** is needed for: [INSERT PROJECT DETAILS]

Project Name

Project Type and Description

Cost Estimate

Number of Jobs Created

Cost Efficiencies

Project Effectiveness/Improvements for community or region

Start/Finish Time (i.e. immediately, 3 months, 6 months)

- **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:** Investment in the **Community Development Block Grant program** must continually be promoted at all levels of government to ensure competitiveness, job creation, economic growth and the ability to address future challenges and opportunities.
- Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations and your commitment to sustained and strategic public investments. We offer our support and assistance to you and your colleagues on these important and timely efforts to stimulate jobs, reinvigorate local and national economies and possibly forestall deep problems within state and local governments.