

**NARC**

*Building Regional Communities*

**National Association of Regional Councils**

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## **FY11 CONTINUING RESOLUTION TALKING POINTS**

### **Community Services Block Grants (CSBG)**

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

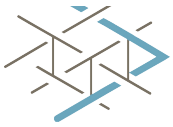
**IMMEDIATE ACTION:** *Please support the inclusion of funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) **Community Services Block Grants (CSBG)** within the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1) under development by Congress to ensure vital local and regional programs continue to boost the economy and create jobs. Currently H.R. 1 reduces CSBG by \$295M, providing \$10M for technical assistance grants to rural areas.*

### **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 Services Block Grant** funding determinations in the FY11 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1):

- The CSBG funds the anti-poverty Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and family self-sufficiency efforts of a nationwide network of 1,100 community agencies. These organizations create, coordinate, and deliver comprehensive programs and services to many people living in poverty in the United States.
- The CSBG is unique and provides the only flexible funds that community's leaders can use to tailor one-size-fits all government programs so they are coordinated to serve our priority needs through the development of innovative plans that improve the community's economy and services and mobilization of partnerships and resources that needed to assist hard-working families and retirees struggling to be economically independent.
- Examples of the important local uses of CSBG funds include workforce development and job training programs, economic development loans and grants, nutrition services, homeless outreach and engagement, public outreach and education, and mental health and substance abuse services.
- With high unemployment rates and continued difficult economic times affecting families, individuals and vulnerable populations, the continued assistance provided through the CSBG is critical.



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**LOCAL/REGIONAL CONSTITUENT EXAMPLE:** In our region alone, continued investment in HHS' **Community Services 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 Services 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.