

NADO Action Alert

Urge your House Members to Sign the Bipartisan Coalition Letter Supporting \$3.3 billion for the HUD-CDBG Program in FY2014

Background/Issue:

A bipartisan group of House of Representatives members are circulating a “Dear Colleague” letter to House appropriators supporting level funding for HUD-CDBG for FY2014. The letter requests \$3.3 billion to provide critical funding for community development programs that assist urban, suburban and rural communities to improve housing and living conditions and expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate income persons.

Coalition leaders on the letter include Rep. Robert A. Brady (D-PA), Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA), Rep. James McGovern (D-MA), Rep. Peter King (R-NY), Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver (D-MO), and Rep. Chris Gibson (R-NY). Click [here](#) to view a copy of the CDBG “Dear Colleague” letter.

WE NEED YOUR HELP:

Call your members of the House of Representatives today and ask them to sign the bipartisan letter supporting the HUD-CDBG Program. Action is required from your House member before April 10, 2013. If your Representatives would like to add their name to the letter, please have their staff contact Kate Ostrander, Legislative Director of the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition, at kate.ostrander@mail.house.gov or (202.226.6106). Please remember to provide any updates to NADO staff. If you would like any additional help contacting your Member of Congress, please do not hesitate to contact our Legislative Director, Craig Whitham via email (cwhitham@nado.org) or phone (202.624.8590).

Action Alert Talking Points

- CDBG is an important tool used by state and local officials as they tackle their most serious community and economic development challenges, such as providing affordable housing, upgrading and building essential public infrastructure and water systems, creating small business development loan funds for local entrepreneurs and industries, and addressing local planning and technical assistance needs.
- At a time when local governments and communities are striving to overcome intensifying global economic competition, upgrade aging public infrastructure, and address the severe housing crisis, it is vital that federal policy makers continue to maintain support for the CDBG program.
- The cornerstone of the CDBG program is its locally driven, flexible, and bottom-up approach. The program provides invaluable resources for 1,180 urban counties and cities to meet locally-identified needs. As required by law, 30 percent of CDBG formula funding is reserved for states to assist rural communities with economic development, infrastructure improvements, and other fundamental building blocks for job creation and economic development.
- State, regional, and local officials use the CDBG program to provide valuable seed capital, gap financing, and core support for a variety of projects. In addition, CDBG funds are typically used to

leverage and attract private sector investments. Every CDBG dollar invested in communities is leveraged, on average, by three dollars in private funding, bringing much needed business investments to distressed areas.

- Over the past eight years, HUD-CDBG has created or retained over 300,000 jobs for low to moderate income people.
- CDBG has been drastically reduced in recent years, having been cut by nearly 25 percent or \$1 billion since FY2010. CDBG is currently funded at close to \$3.08 billion for FY2013, which includes cuts under sequestration.