

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2005

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula and Ranking Member Obey:

As you begin your work on the fiscal year (FY) 2006 appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you provide not less than \$636.6 million for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), equal to the final FY 2005 appropriations for CSBG.

As you know, the CSBG supplies the core funding for more than 1,100 grantees, primarily Community Action Agencies (CAAs), nationwide. These agencies provide many important services and initiatives that help low-income families and individuals become self-sufficient. Although the President's FY 2006 Budget Request called for consolidating the program with 17 other key programs, the House Budget Committee stated:

Community Services Block Grants provide invaluable assistance to low-income families and communities. These funds are used to build healthy and stable communities. Due consideration should be given to this program before Congress implements any changes.

CSBG provides flexible dollars to local agencies to deliver community-designed responses to their unique needs and causes of poverty. Funding is targeted to the poorest of the poor - those living at or below the poverty line. Resources are not only devoted to providing these individuals with the tools to achieve self-sufficiency and economic independence, but to strengthening low-income communities to create and expand local opportunities.

In FY 2003, CSBG enabled CAAs to leverage over \$9.3 billion in other Federal, State, local and private resources to develop and provide a coordinated array of services to combat poverty. Each CSBG dollar leverages nearly \$5 in state, local and private funds. With this cost-effective investment, CAAs are able to serve over 13 million individuals in almost 6 million families.

Yet the demand for CSBG services has never been greater. Unemployed parents have turned to CAAs for help in meeting basic needs and in making a fresh start. More and more families of Reservists called to extended duty serving our country are also receiving help from CAAs to make ends meet. Families who are transitioning off or have already left the TANF program turn to programs leveraged with CSBG dollars to gain the skills and the resources to become truly self-sufficient.

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It is clear that America's families need the services provided by CAAs through the CSBG. We ask that your subcommittee provide adequate funding for this program through the Department of Health and Human Services in the FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



Ron Simmons
Member of Congress



Brian Baird
Member of Congress



Phil English
Member of Congress

Ed Case

Mis Fortino

Kick Zorn

Robert Weyh

Tom A. LoBundo

John Zorn

Uma Eschro

Mike Ron

Stephanie Herseft

Ed Whitford

John F. Tierney

Candice McCarthy

Jim Langevin

Dan Brown

Tim Ryan

Adam Smith

Antony Davis

Joe Baca

Jed Strickland

J. Sh

John Smith

Jim Wilson

Jim Marshall

Tom Osborne

Gene Dan

Mike Thompson

Wm. Lacy Clay

John B. Ruan

Alphane Potts Jr

Rust Holt

David W

Michael C. Hart

Betty McCallum

John Shaky

Liane E. Watson

Mike Jeyan

Stephen Lynch

Tom Murphy

Michael White

Charles W Dent

Bob Saul

Edizal E. Cummings

Almy N. Costello

George Miller

Michael R. McNulty

Ben Card

Gerold Radley

Shenod Brown

Barry Bryant

Bill C. Pate

Robert Menendez

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Lynn Woolsey

Ken A. Warner

Doris O. Martini

Maria R. Owens

Mike Rehall

Carolyn B. Malony

Jack Perini

Tony Balchiri

~~Missan Palk~~

William L Jenkins

~~Sam Jones~~

Tivh

Kon Kind

~~Jin Mar~~

Rail M. Hijalva

Lee Sadley

~~Leonard L. Basner~~

~~Andy Stuy~~

Tom Chull

Tom All

Bert Carnah

Tony B

~~Earl Penney~~

Neil Abercrombie

Ben Chandler

Kentby Huhle

~~Bob Alford~~

Michael E. Capur

Michael Fitzpatrick

Gai Lin

Rich Boucher

Clare E. Kilday

Miriam Munn

Devin Munn

Erin O'Connell

Grace J. Negetano

Judy Beggert

Tom Carr

Marybeth

Shila Johnson

Tom Carr

Robert E. Carr

Paul Blumenau

Walter DeWitt

Solomon P. Ortiz

Norm DeWitt

Scott Valdes

Bill Power

Lane Evans

J. H. McHugh

Pauline Horley

Sam T. ...

Todd R. Platts

Bob Key

Jim ...

Michael H. ...

John Moran

Bob Goodlette

Maureen ...

John ...

Jane Camp

John ...

Ernie L. Engle

Rubin Hingosa

Ralph M. Hall

Tom Petri

Rancy L. Johnson