

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 5, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services and Education
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Walsh
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

We respectfully request that you provide not less than \$700 million for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) in the LHHS-ED Appropriations bill for FY 2008 comparable to the final FY 2002 appropriation with proper adjustment for inflation.

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.

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 2005, CSBG enabled CAAs to leverage almost \$9.9 billion in other federal, state, local and private resources to develop and provide a coordinated array of services to combat poverty. Every CSBG dollar leverages \$5.40 in state, local and private funds. With this cost-effective investment, CAAs are able to serve more than 3.7 million children and over 6 million low income 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. Families of military reservists called to extended duty serving our country are also receiving help from CAAs to make ends meet. Moreover, families who are transitioning off or have already left the TANF program turn to programs leveraged with CSBG dollars to gain the skills and resources to become truly self-sufficient. Those facing skyrocketing home energy costs are turning to CAAs not only for LIHEAP and other energy assistance, but also to get help meeting other basic needs in the face of these costs, including food, housing, and health care payments.

It is clear that America's families need the services provided by CAAs through the Community Service Block Grant. We ask that you maintain the commitment to this important program by appropriating not less than \$700 million for FY 2008.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress

Brian Baird
Member of Congress

Phil English
Member of Congress

Paul Hodes
Member of Congress

Justin Baldino

Tom Murphy

Michael A. Ari

Chris Van Hollen

Shelley Berkley

R. A. Murre

Betty Sutton

Raul M. Grijalva

Judy Levin

Kelly Work

Eileen Donohue

Bill Delahunt

Tammy Baldwin

Rubin Hernandez

Jim Moran

~~Bill DeBlase~~

Rick Boucher

Mike Shogan

Marcy Kaptur

Diane E. Watson

Erin O'Connor

Don Johnson

Earl Blumenauer

Art Kabauf

Gene Green

James C. ...

Bob Filner

Ed Whitfield

Todd R. Platts

Pete Welch

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Charles A. Wilson

...

Joseph ...
Jim McDermott

John B. ...

Paul Holt

Tom ...

Jack ...

D. ...

Ron ...

Jan ...

Pete ...

Mary ...

John F. Tierney

Bonny Frank

Don DeFette

Julia Carson

Linda J. Sucky

Leonard L. Benwell

Carol Shea-Power

Neil Abronadio

Tracy

Stephanie Hareth

Chris M...

Melvin R. Watt

Alfred D. Watkins

John A. L. Bando

Tom Peters

Jim Matheson

George L. Brady

Kathy Huhel

Michael E. Capman

Lin J. Wahy

Joseph

Jim Russell

Carolyn McCarthy

Alfred E. Kahn

Ron Paul

John F. A.

Christopher P. Comer

Lois Capps

Robert Shays

Judy Biggert

Hilda L. Solis

Mike Cattle

Darlene Hooley

John Smith

Bill Pasarell Jr.

E. F. Jones

Scott V. Walker

Vern J. Ehlers

Maureen Rindberg

Jim Van Amey

Bart Stupak

John G. Dingens

Edward J. Markey

Samie Camp

Rich Zausen

Michael T. McCall

Mike Dyer

Tom Ryan

John Rozema

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Mazgi C. Harris

Hank Johnson

Jan Whaley
May Payne

Joe Sestak

Jerry Moran

Richard Shear

Howard L. Berman

Frank Williams & Sonnet

Monty Muth

Oale E. Childs

Mike Ren

Al Lewis

Michael J. Tom

Bob Stewart

Carolyn B. Maloney

Jane Prier

Tim Holden