5 STATES SHOWCASING WHY FUNDING MATTERS.
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Dear Honorable Members of the Senate and House:

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program which was enacted in 1974 and the HOME Investment Partnerships program (HOME), enacted in 1990 have been vital assets to our communities. Both of these programs provide affordable housing, sustainable living environments and economic opportunities to low income families that improve the quality of life for all. With our country dealing with the unfortunate outcomes of Covid-19 plaguing our communities, CDBG AND HOME programs play a vital role in getting our communities to greater heights.

CDBG and HOME programs are a critical resource for communities nationwide to invest in low- and moderate income neighborhoods; producing and preserving homeowner and rental housing, providing fundamental infrastructure, vital public services and public improvements, and spurring economic development and public-private partnerships at the local level.

Not having these programs in our communities will cause significant setbacks. The elderly residents will no longer receive fresh hot meals, or have necessary repairs to their homes in order to maintain sustainable living conditions.

Economic development projects will subside, which will curtail job creation, limit reduction of crime, and prevent revenue creation, etc. Cutting CDBG and HOME will have a great impact on affordable housing, down payment assistance programs, new construction developments will halt. Communities will struggle to continue these type of programs without the assistance that the CDBG and Home programs offer. These programs will play a critical role in serving the most vulnerable populations.

We urge Congress to recognize the outstanding work being done locally with CDBG and HOME funds by providing increased funding for both programs for Fiscal Year 2022. Again, thank you for your previous support and dedication to CDBG and HOME.
Community Development Block Grant Program, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Regional Impact

For more than 45 years, communities across the United States have depended on funding from the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program to provide essential services and assistance to hardworking people struggling to make ends meet. Each year, these critical programs improve the lives of millions of low- and moderate-income Americans while making our communities stronger and safer places to live and work.

Across all 5 states, Region VI represents Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, and Arkansas, economic development projects funded through the CDBG and HOME programs have reinvigorated neglected and underserved low income communities. Low income and impoverished neighborhoods have flourished with the usage of CDBG and HOME funds. First time homebuyers, small businesses, seniors, veterans and children alike have benefited from these vital public services, funded through CDBG and HOME programs.

__Low and moderate-income citizens and the local neighborhoods served by the program suffer the consequences of these funding reductions.__
Regional Funding for Past 10 Years

REGIONAL FUNDING FOR LAST 10 YEARS

CDBG

- 2012: 323,331,210
- 2013: 334,346,857
- 2014: 327,675,890
- 2015: 323,204,581
- 2016: 256,790,843
- 2018: 354,896,142
- 2019: 354,784,124
- 2020: 936,789,991
- 2021: 376,249,466

HOME

- 2012: 108,231,309
- 2013: 102,909,966
- 2014: 106,942,534
- 2015: 95,183,882
- 2016: 100,441,419
- 2017: 100,070,644
- 2018: 145,425,411
- 2019: 132,488,764
- 2020: 146,360,229
- 2021: 687,588,644

*numbers do not account for losses due to the increasing annual cost of inflation.

*numbers reflect increase in 2022 due to CARES ACT funding.
2021 Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships Program funding per state:

- NM: $19.1M CDBG, $36.5M HOME
- OK: $29.1M CDBG, $68.6M HOME
- TX: $249.9M CDBG, $437.4M HOME
- AR: $27.1M CDBG, $55.5M HOME
- LA: $50.8M CDBG, $89.2M HOME
In an effort to maximize the revitalization efforts, the City of Little Rock developed a single family home located at 4711 Charles Bussey. This home was listed and sold to an eligible low-to-moderate income family for $150,000. The program income after construction costs and subsidies was $127,000.00

Down Payment Assistance

The City of Little Rock has allocated funds to assist low and moderate income first time homebuyers to purchase for owner occupancy residential properties within the city limits of Little Rock.

18 DPA's Awarded

$125,030 Amount awarded
Old Conway Village is the City of Conway’s newest addition of affordable housing in the historic Pine Street Neighborhood. The development targets income qualifying families with income at or below 60 percent of the area median and will incorporate units for market rate housing as well as a few families at 30 percent area median income. The development is located off Siebenmorgen Road.

This housing development will help maximize the city’s investment in this area while meeting the goal of providing affordable housing opportunities in this historic area.

Thus far, the City of Conway has invested over $1.2 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in this area as part of its focus of revitalization for this neighborhood. Part of this investment included acquisition of land, utilities, drainage, parking, and sidewalk improvements to support further development.
Affordable Energy
Efficient Homes and Sidewalks

City of North Little Rock, AR

North Little Rock, in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity and the Pulaski County Neighborhood Alliance for Habitat, constructed an affordable, energy efficient single family home. HOME funds were used to construct the 1295 square foot house at a cost of $131,800. The house has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a double garage, plus a spacious living and dining area and kitchen. The home was subsequently sold to a low income, retired senior citizen.

The resident now enjoys the freedom and mobility in her new home and ADA accessible sidewalks that were also completed in 2020 with CDBG funding at a total costs of $197,366.45. Overall, our neighborhood revitalization projects provide new construction of decent, affordable housed. Coupled with street and drainage projects, we are creating decent communities and neighborhoods where families can flourish and prosper.

FUNDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDBG</th>
<th>HOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020: $690,717</td>
<td>2020: $314,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021: $686,633</td>
<td>2021: $331,627</td>
</tr>
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Malvern Avenue Gateway Improvement Project

City of Hot Springs, AR

Since 2015, the City of Hot Springs CDBG program has made several targeted improvements along Malvern Avenue and in the Gateway Community, a historically African American community in Hot Springs that was once the sight of a thriving commercial and social district. Sidewalk improvements, bus shelter additions, ADA accessibility improvements, drainage, and street scape and general infrastructure improvements have turned the area around in recent years and has provided the base for greater economic and community development.

Since the areas were first improved, several businesses and private investors have moved in along the historically thriving stretch of Malvern Avenue and helped bring vibrancy and a sense of community to the area. The City of Hot Springs has also received two further applications for review to upgrade the electric conduits for street light improvements as well as pedestrian safety improvements that will further aid the community in building a thriving metropolitan district along Malvern Avenue.
Housing Reconstruction

City of Monroe, LA

HOME & CDBG funds were used to demolish and reconstruct a single-family home for a disabled grandmother and quadriplegic grandson in the Booker T. Washington Neighborhood. The home was rebuilt to include the following: 3 bedrooms with two ADA Accessible bathrooms. The home includes a therapy room, carport, appliances such as washer, dryer, refrigerator & microwave.

We had several local furniture stores that donated a few accent pieces, a sofa and a local developer donated a new bedroom set.

$140,000

HOME Funds utilized

$168,359.59

Project Cost

“This home is so beautiful, and a dream come true for my grandson and I. I just can’t believe this home is all mine.” – Homeowner
NEW MEXICO

CITIES

ALBUQUERQUE
Wilson Park Renovation Project

City of Albuquerque, NM

The Wilson Park Project was to rehabilitate an existing City-owned park and swimming pool to include a playground, splash pad, add and modify existing walking paths and lighting, resurface and modify tennis courts, and make associated landscape and irrigation system improvements. The project costs were funded by $1,501,830 from the City's HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement.

$1,501,830
CDBG Funds utilized

9,140
Residents assisted

“There’s no better way to welcome our first summer back out than with this great space for the community to enjoy. This is a major investment in the heart of the International District, providing better access to safe green spaces, youth recreation – and of course – a new splash pad right in time for the summer heat. Improving the recreational offerings and the safety of Wilson Park has been a community priority, and I’m grateful for all of the neighbors who worked with our departments to get it done.” - Mayor Tim Keller
Project Oasis is a solution to food insecurity. It is a start-up, Black-owned enterprise and north Tulsa’s first full-service grocery store in ten years. In addition, this enterprise offers a workforce training program for future grocers and local youth, a health “food-farmacy” with a demonstration kitchen and youth cooking competitions.

More than 25 jobs were created when the store opened in May 2020, with more to follow through e-commerce. It is strategically located along the Peoria Bus Rapid Transit corridor, next to another CDBG-funded retail initiative in 2013, Shops on Peoria. The hope is that this project will serve as a model that can be replicated in other parts of the city.

36,000
Residents in service area

25
Jobs created

“It has been an amazing experience to build North Tulsa together with people whose hearts and minds are focused on the prosperity of our community.” - Owner, AJ Johnson
Sunnybrook Road Sidewalk Improvements

City of Corpus Christi, TX

CDBG funds were used for Phase I and Phase II of the Sunnybrook Road sidewalk improvements from Ayers Street to Evelyn Street. The existing rural roadway section was transitioned into an improved section with underground drainage, minor utility adjustments and ADA compliant sidewalks after both phases were completed.

Total Project Cost:
CDBG: $658,290.48

The project provided sidewalks on both sides of the street and continued sidewalks to Kostoryz. The project provides improved access for pedestrians and bicyclists. The project also reduces potential for nuisance flooding, mosquitos and undomesticated animals.

6,395 Residents served

$45,00 Median household income
Palladium Redbird Apartments

The development includes residential apartments, structured parking, a multipurpose room, fitness center, and swimming pool. There is interest and growth in the area that will sustain the project. It is a part of a larger 95-acre project that transforms a former mall and parking lots into new housing and hotel rooms, office space, restaurants and shops. Additionally, health care providers Parkland Hospital, UT Southwestern Medical Center, and Children’s Health have rented space for new facilities in parts of the old mall.

City of Dallas, TX

This project is located at 7502 S Westmoreland Rd, Dallas, TX 75237. This is in the Red Bird community, in Council District 8, which is generally bounded by Polk Street to the east, Camp Wisdom to the south and Hampton Road and U.S. Route 67 to the west. The Reb Bird Community is in the southern sector of Dallas. Historically, the southern sector of Dallas has been underserved – the community has lacked services such as grocery stores, office space, and medical facilities.

The Palladium Redbird Multifamily Housing project adds affordable housing units in a new mixed-income development. The project is on a bus line that allows residents to easily travel throughout the city. It includes a 4-story mixed-income multifamily rental residential project with 300 units as part of the Red Bird redevelopment efforts on vacant land.

300

Beneficiaries
The new Courtyard has play equipment, a mini-basketball court, music play features, tables, benches, pathways, and lighting. It is surrounded by an 8’ high masonry wall and landscaping, giving the Courtyard a safe, secluded feeling. It still provides for play therapy sessions with counselors, but mostly it is for carefree recreation.

"The playground has been used extensively since its completion; children and adults enjoy the variety of areas and toys available for use in it. Childcare uses the outdoor space while our caregivers and victims of abuse are meeting with Family Advocates, Clinical Services, investigators, or prosecutors. Clinicians use the space for certain therapy sessions when it is appropriate for clients’ treatment plans.
- Kate Lynass, Ph.D

**Project Cost:**
CDBG: $60,000  
Total Cost: $308,497

309 Children assisted  
1,323 Visits
City of Laredo, TX

The City of Laredo, Department of Community Development designed this program to improve the living conditions of low and moderate income owner-occupants which homes require extensive repairs and/or replacement as a result of a fire or being dilapidated beyond repair. All applicants must meet the household income guidelines as determined by HUD annually and the eligibility requirements as established in the program policy and procedures manual.

The following home was dilapidated beyond repair, which left an elderly household in desperate need of housing assistance. Their home was shifting to the side creating uneven floors and cracks on the walls, had roof leaks causing water stains in ceilings, broken windows, worn out electrical wiring, and contained a musky, damp, and stale smell. Staff determined that the housing unit was uninhabitable Therefore, the home was demolished and a new 801 sq. ft. home was constructed on the their lot. The new house consist of two bedrooms, one handicap accessible bathroom, one laundry closet, and a modern open concept. This house also included appliances such as the water heater, stove, refrigerator, and the HVAC system.

### Project Cost:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>RL Projects</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020-2021</td>
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<td>$93,030</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>4*</td>
<td>$518,000*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
City of Mission, TX

The Housing Assistance Program provides eligible low to moderate income families in the community with assistance to rehabilitate or reconstruct their homes. The assistance is provided in the form of a deferred loan; 0% interest with a lien period of five (5) to ten (10) years depending on the type of assistance. These families are not able to obtain a conventional loan for home repairs/reconstruction. This program impacts the quality of life of the families and keep neighborhoods from becoming slums.

“The house is very pretty. I like the layout of my new home and how well its built. Staff was very helpful throughout the assistance process. Did a great job!” – Beneficiary
City of McKinney, TX

This program provides home repairs for low- and moderate-income homeowners. The program has provided more than 80 individuals and families with emergency repairs, small repairs, and major home rehabilitation.

The program not only preserves existing housing stock, but also provides energy efficiency, increases the tax base and improves neighborhood stability in our older communities. Approximately 10 beneficiaries are assisted each year.