

SAMPLE LETTER TO U.S. SENATORS AND CONGRESS

Dear Representative/Senator _____:

As a resident of Florida, I'm writing to you to express my support for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Ownership Investment Partnership (HOME) Programs and to voice my opposition to any threatened cuts or elimination of this program for this budget and beyond. These programs help to assist homeowners in need as well as many other residents who are low- and moderate-income (LMI) with crucial public services.

(You may choose and edit one of the following or add your own)

Sample paragraph for a resident who is not LMI:

I am a resident of Hollywood, Florida. While my family would not be considered LMI, I support programs that fund resources necessary to serve individuals in need. Programs funded completely or in part by CDBG and HOME help our aging neighborhoods become revitalized, assist residents who are in need of critical home repairs and social services. We care about our community and this funding is necessary to help our City and citizens.

Sample paragraph for a resident who is LMI and on the waiting list for Housing Rehabilitation:

I have been a responsible homeowner for ____ years. Due to market conditions and economic issues, my home has fallen into disrepair. The City of Hollywood has a Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program for which family qualifies. However, consistent federal funding cuts have resulted in our placement on a lengthy waiting list. Our home continues to deteriorate, which is unsafe for my family and leads to a blighted neighborhood.

Sample paragraph for a resident who has a child or children participating in a non-profit program funded by CDBG:

I am a resident in Hollywood, Florida and my child/children participate(s) in (name of program) offered by (name of agency), which is funded by CDBG funds. Because of this program, my children and other children (list success such as improved their test scores/grades, was promoted a grade, etc.). If it was not for the assistance of CDBG funds, this program would not be available to my children and it would hurt our struggling family.

Sample paragraph for an individual or family who participated in a non-profit program funded by CDBG:

I was homeless and in need of a hand up, rather than a hand out. (Name of agency) assisted me with _____.

Thanks to CDBG funds, organizations like _____ are able to help people like me become productive members of society and help stimulate the economy.

I have been working with (name of agency) for ___ months/years. They have provided me and my family _____, which has benefitted us greatly.

Since working with them, we have been able to _____. It is because of CDBG funds that these services are possible.

The CDBG and HOME Program are a vital resource to our community, providing funding for projects and services that directly impact the lives of LMI citizens. For example, some important programs funded with CDBG and HOME has included the following:

- Housing Rehabilitation
- Social Service Assistance
- Neighborhood Revitalization
- Elimination of Blighted Areas
- Development of Affordable Housing
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) for the formerly homeless
- Literacy, Math and Science Education Programs for Youth
- Senior Programs and Transportation
- Job Placement/ Retention
- Employment Materials/Vocational Education Materials

Without CDBG and HOME funding these projects could not have been assisted. CDBG provides the flexibility to fund a myriad of activities, fill gaps where needed, and leverage and attract additional resources to projects. This combination of CDBG with HOME and other resources adds to our local economy through the purchase of goods and services and adds to the betterment of the lives of our local citizenry through improved neighborhoods and services.

On behalf of my family and friends, I ask you to oppose any legislation that would eliminate or reduce funding for CDBG and HOME for this budget and beyond.

Sincerely,

Your Name