

Dear [House/Senate Member],

We urge you to support full funding of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs in FY26.

For over 50 years, the CDBG program has provided flexible funding to urban, suburban, and rural communities to address housing and community development need in ways tailored to each community. Every state has benefited from CDBG funds, and over 1,200 state and local governments currently receive annual CDBG funding directly. Since FY05, CDBG has accomplished the following: provided safe and affordable housing to over 2.1 million households, supported public infrastructure serving nearly 59 million people nationwide, and created/retained 581,495 jobs through economic development activities. Since 1992, the HOME program has completed nearly 1.4 million units of affordable housing and provided tenant-based rental assistance to 403,788 low-income families.

Of course, while statistics about the program's impacts are certainly useful, they do not tell a full story. The elimination of CDBG funding would jeopardize critical initiatives at the local level such as:

- Springfield's *Health and Safety Repair Program*, to improve dilapidated and unsafe housing for low- and moderate-income families including seniors to allow them to age in place and mobility improvements for people with disabilities.
- Programs to provide resources to new businesses to grow our local economy.
- Public infrastructure projects (road repairs, sidewalk improvements, etc.) in Springfield's Engaged Neighborhood and other eligible areas.
- Strategic demolition and code enforcement programs.
- Funding for various nonprofits to address homelessness, domestic violence, youth engagement, food insecurity, and other urgent community needs.

Likewise, the elimination of the HOME program would have a profound impact on Springfield's ability to provide affordable housing.

Requiring local governments to shoulder the burden of funding these programs would ignore the scale of the need and the federal government's responsibility to invest in equitable growth. After all, thriving local economies and strong communities lay the foundation for a brighter, more prosperous future for everyone. Eliminating CDBG and HOME from the fiscal year 2026 budget would not only financially impact communities but would also erase hard-won progress.

We urge you to reject proposals to eliminate federal support for these critical programs in FY26 and instead urge you to vigorously fight to maintain program funding. CDBG and HOME are proven programs critical to meeting the needs of local communities.

Sincerely,