



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 23, 2011

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
United States House of Representatives  
1714 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-2304

Dear Representative McCollum:

I am writing to express my concern about the Administration's proposed 50 percent cut to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Reductions to federal investments in Community Action programs would be extremely harmful to families, communities, and states across the nation including Minnesota, at a time when we are facing deep challenges resulting from economic conditions.

The Community Services Block Grant is the only federal program exclusively focused on reducing poverty. The Community Services Block Grant has a proven track record of helping families to secure basic needs; to remove barriers, develop skills and access supports for stable employment; and to insure that income gained is effectively used to promote family economic stability. The Community Services Block Grant also addresses poverty on a community level, through engagement and economic development strategies, and is a resource that allows local communities the flexibility to tailor resources to address specific local needs.

With its national network of over 1,000 nonprofits, Tribal Governments and states, the Community Services Block Grant network is an essential part of the safety net for our most vulnerable citizens.

The Community Services Block Grant is central to Minnesota and to this nation's ability to succeed for the following reasons:

**Community Action helps low-income people get and keep jobs.**

As Governor of Minnesota, I have made a commitment to supporting jobs in Minnesota.

In 2010, the Community Services Block Grant was used to help 3,657 low-income individuals who were previously unemployed obtained a job in Minnesota. An additional 2,754 people increased their employment income as a result of Community Service Block Grant-funded efforts. In a time when persistent unemployment is the number one threat to reigniting the economy, we need more investments in strategies that help people get jobs, not fewer.

Recent federal investments through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allowed the Community Services Block Grant network to do even more to help people secure jobs. Federal recovery spending data ranked the Community Services Block Grant 8th out of approximately 200 federal programs in jobs created or retained. This one-time investment has ended, but the need for economic recovery persists.

Employment supports are a crucial to the ability of low-income people to become or remain employed. In 2010 in Minnesota, the Community Services Block Grant allowed Minnesota's 28 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Government grantees to address the following barriers to employment:

- 8,070 families obtained child care;
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Minnesota's Community Action network directly employs approximately 5,000 people throughout the state, from central cities and suburbs, to rural areas and reservations. The jobs that Community Action investments support are central to our state's economic engine.

**The Community Services Block Grant funding leverages additional public and private dollars that provide critical support state and local economies.**

In 2010, Community Services Block Grant funding totaled \$7.5 million in Minnesota. With this relatively small level of federal investment, almost \$500 million in other program funding was leveraged in our state alone. In addition, over 93,500 volunteers provided 1.63 million hours of services. This leveraging of resources – both financial and human – is a hallmark of the Community Services Block Grant.

**In rural areas, Community Action is often the only game in town.**

In some communities in Minnesota, Community Action is the only place for vulnerable Americans to turn. These are troubling scenarios, because nonprofits across the country are already stretched to or beyond capacity due to increased client needs, state budget cuts, and reduced fundraising brought on by the financial crisis. Cuts to the Community Services Block Grant will lead not only to less access to important supports, but also in some places NO access for our most vulnerable citizens.

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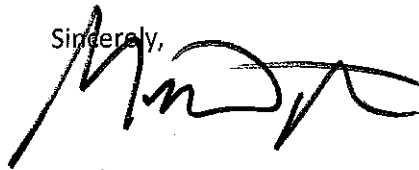
The Honorable Betty McCollum  
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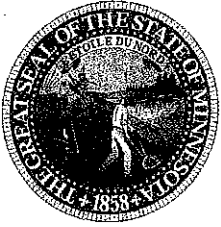
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I urge you to support Community Services Block Grant funding at its current level of \$700 million.

Sincerely,

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Mark Dayton  
Governor



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The Honorable Collin Peterson  
United States House of Representatives  
2211 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-2307

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The Honorable Michele Bachmann  
United States House of Representatives  
103 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-2306

Dear Representative Bachmann:

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United States House of Representatives  
2439 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-2302

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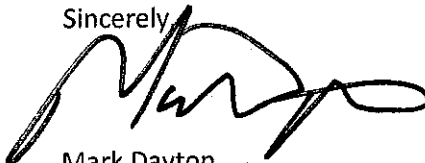
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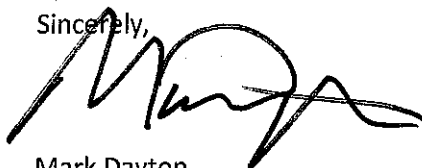
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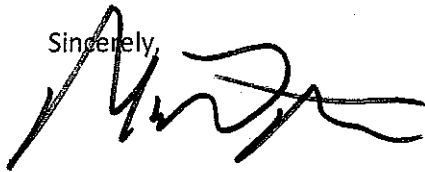
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In 2010, Community Services Block Grant funding totaled \$7.5 million in Minnesota. With this relatively small level of federal investment, almost \$500 million in other program funding was leveraged in our state alone. In addition, over 93,500 volunteers provided 1.63 million hours of services. This leveraging of resources – both financial and human – is a hallmark of the Community Services Block Grant.

**In rural areas, Community Action is often the only game in town.**

In some communities in Minnesota, Community Action is the only place for vulnerable Americans to turn. These are troubling scenarios, because nonprofits across the country are already stretched to or beyond capacity due to increased client needs, state budget cuts, and reduced fundraising brought on by the financial crisis. Cuts to the Community Services Block Grant will lead not only to less access to important supports, but also in some places NO access for our most vulnerable citizens.

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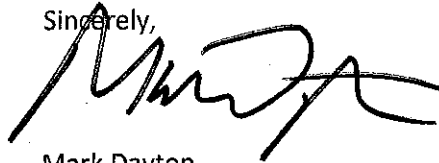
The Honorable Chip Cravaack  
March 23, 2011  
Page 3

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Community Action in Minnesota served 570,107 individuals within 223,416 families in need in 2010. Of these, 17% were seniors and 40% were children under the age of 18. Without the Community Services Block Grant, hope and opportunity will be lost in the poorest and most rural parts of Minnesota and this country. People will fail to thrive and grow and contribute to their community. We need the Community Services Block Grant to insure a strong America.

I urge you to support Community Services Block Grant funding at its current level of \$700 million.

Sincerely,

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Mark Dayton  
Governor



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 23, 2011

The Honorable Keith Ellison  
United States House of Representatives  
1027 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-2305

Dear Representative Ellison:

I am writing to express my concern about the Administration's proposed 50 percent cut to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Reductions to federal investments in Community Action programs would be extremely harmful to families, communities, and states across the nation including Minnesota, at a time when we are facing deep challenges resulting from economic conditions.

The Community Services Block Grant is the only federal program exclusively focused on reducing poverty. The Community Services Block Grant has a proven track record of helping families to secure basic needs; to remove barriers, develop skills and access supports for stable employment; and to insure that income gained is effectively used to promote family economic stability. The Community Services Block Grant also addresses poverty on a community level, through engagement and economic development strategies, and is a resource that allows local communities the flexibility to tailor resources to address specific local needs.

With its national network of over 1,000 nonprofits, Tribal Governments and states, the Community Services Block Grant network is an essential part of the safety net for our most vulnerable citizens.

The Community Services Block Grant is central to Minnesota and to this nation's ability to succeed for the following reasons:

**Community Action helps low-income people get and keep jobs.**

As Governor of Minnesota, I have made a commitment to supporting jobs in Minnesota.

In 2010, the Community Services Block Grant was used to help 3,657 low-income individuals who were previously unemployed obtained a job in Minnesota. An additional 2,754 people increased their employment income as a result of Community Service Block Grant-funded efforts. In a time when persistent unemployment is the number one threat to reigniting the economy, we need more investments in strategies that help people get jobs, not fewer.

Recent federal investments through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allowed the Community Services Block Grant network to do even more to help people secure jobs. Federal recovery spending data ranked the Community Services Block Grant 8th out of approximately 200 federal programs in jobs created or retained. This one-time investment has ended, but the need for economic recovery persists.

Employment supports are a crucial to the ability of low-income people to become or remain employed. In 2010 in Minnesota, the Community Services Block Grant allowed Minnesota's 28 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Government grantees to address the following barriers to employment:

- 8,070 families obtained child care;
- 46,407 people accessed transportation;
- 4,695 people obtained safe and affordable housing; and,
- 54,810 people obtained food assistance.

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# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 23, 2011

The Honorable Al Franken  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-2304

Dear Senator Franken:

I am writing to express my concern about the Administration's proposed 50 percent cut to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

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# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 23, 2011

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

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The Honorable Amy Klobuchar

March 23, 2011

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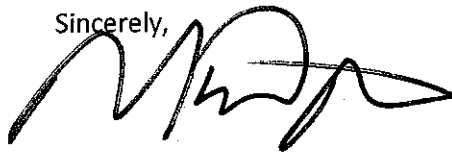
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