

May 3, 2011

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

Cutting the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), or worse, presenting CSBG for elimination, will devastate the lives of over 20 million Americans seeking a tenuous toehold in the middle class. We strongly urge you to support funding CSBG at the FY2011 level of \$680 million. We understand the difficult decisions you face during the FY2012 Budget negotiations, but decreasing CSBG funding will set our country's economic recovery back and abandon vulnerable Americans who work hard to attain economic security.

CSBG, a state administered block grant, provides the foundation for 1,065 local agencies, primarily Community Action Agencies (CAAs), serving 99% of U.S. counties in the 50 states and territories. These agencies' local governing boards provide place-based solutions that address real needs in their communities. The network successfully combines Federal, State and local investment and involvement to deliver measurable results for low-income Americans in distressed rural, suburban and urban communities.

Since 1994 the CSBG network has carefully tracked its outcomes. In 2009, the network provided services to 20.7 million low-income individuals, including 5 million children, 2.3 million seniors and 4 million families. Some highlights include:

- 153,931 unemployed people obtained a job through network employment initiatives.
- 345,866 individuals increased income of which 86,465 were lifted out of poverty through Earned Income Tax Credit services.
- 37,054 people increased their earning potential by obtaining their General Educational Development (GED) or post-secondary education through network employment supports.
- CAA initiatives created, expanded, or saved 218,760 jobs.
- 958,550 community members participated actively in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.
- 241,124 people secured temporary shelter through CAAs.
- 240,248 parents learned and exhibited improved parenting skills through CAA education initiatives.

Besides providing a plethora of services for struggling working Americans, the CSBG network is this administration's most efficient and cost-effective way to deliver services. It's tightly linked to an array of other anti-poverty funding sources including Head Start, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP), Weatherization Assistance Program, Women Infants and Children (WIC), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Housing and Urban

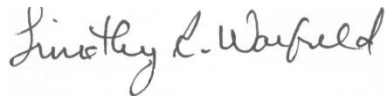
Development (HUD) Section 8, Section 202 and Homeless Assistance and Workforce Investment (WIA). Elimination of CSBG will unravel this tightly knit coordination and dump our most vulnerable citizens in a new bewildering maze of bureaucracies, multiple benefits agencies, and inefficiently-provided services. Americans who depend on any of the above programs will be adversely impacted by cuts to CSBG funding.

Since you and your administration are committed to making economic opportunity, health, and safety readily available and achievable for struggling Americans, it should reconsider cuts to CSBG. The CSBG network stands ready to continue to work with your Administration to provide economic security for all Americans, especially those who are low income. Thank you for your consideration.

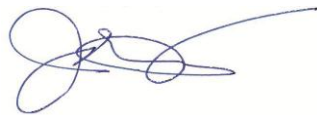
Sincerely,



Don W. Mathis
President and CEO
Community Action Partnership



Timothy R. Warfield
Executive Director
National Association for State Community
Services Programs



John W. Edwards Jr.
Chairman
Community Action Partnership



Steven E. Payne
Chairman
National Association for State Community
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cc: Vice President Joe Biden
Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, Health and Human Services
Jacob J. Lew, Director, Office of Management and Budget