

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

As you prepare a third package in response to COVID-19, we write to urge you to include robust funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This urgently needed funding will help mayors and local governments throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the rest of the nation continue to provide vital services to their communities during this unprecedented crisis.

The CDBG program is one of the Federal government's most effective means to provide resources to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income communities across the nation. CDBG funding supports homeownership, housing rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements, and economic development projects in addition to expanding investment in local economies. Every \$1 of CDBG funding leverages another \$4.09 in additional public and private investments. CDBG funds are distributed to localities through a broad network of local organizations, such as non-profits and community groups, that provide vital services and resources for families and neighborhoods

Cities and local governments are on the front lines in addressing the spread of COVID-19 and its subsequent social and economic impact, and their revenues will take a significant hit as a result of the lost economic activity due to the crisis. At the same, demand will increase for aid to small businesses, rental assistance, mental health support services, and infrastructure to support increased broadband activity. The inclusion of CDBG funds will allow cities to provide these and other services without having to cut off access to vital public services, including public safety, water, sewer, solid waste, and municipal electricity—cuts that would exacerbate the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable communities.

As Congress develops its response to the pandemic, we urge you to keep in mind that this effort will require action at all levels of the government. Local governments must be provided

with the resources they need to protect their citizens from the pandemic and its economic fallout. Accordingly, we ask that you provide substantial funding for the CDBG program in the stimulus package currently under development.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Bill Keating
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress