

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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NANCY ANDERSON
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
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October 8, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
U.S. Senate
SD-B40B, Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Vince Fong
U.S. House of Representatives
243 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20003

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Community Development Block Grant funding in FY 2026-27 - SUPPORT

Dear Congressional delegates,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to urge your support for funding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs in FY 2026-27.

For five decades, the CDBG, HOME, and ESG grant funding from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) department have been the most effective and flexible tool used by states and localities to support low- and moderate-income (LMI) populations through four primary activities: housing, public services, public improvements (infrastructure), and economic development. This funding plays a key role in supporting the everyday lives of LMI people across the country. It helps preserve and expand affordable housing, contributes extensively to developing infrastructure in areas of need, delivers necessary services and support to vulnerable populations, and helps communities tackle economic distress.

From FY 2005 to FY 2023, the CDBG program facilitated the creation and retention of over 500,000 economic development related jobs, contributed to infrastructure developments benefiting almost 57 million people, assisted over 189 million people through public service activities, and met the housing needs of over 1.9 million households.

The impact of the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs are evident by their accomplishments, all of which have been achieved as the number of grantees receiving a direct grant allocation has increased from 594 grantees in 1975 to over 1,200 today. Despite stagnant funding levels, the fact that the program *has never* been adjusted for inflation, and rising program costs, it continues to perform admirably in the face of adversity.

As the Administration and Congress continue to evaluate and consider funding for federal programs, we urge you to champion the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs to help our communities address the ongoing need for investment in affordable housing projects, public infrastructure projects, small business assistance, and a broad range of public service programming for LMI people.

The Kern County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) to send this letter in support of continued HUD funding for these vital programs in FY 2026-27.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LP' or similar initials, with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: National Association of Counties
Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Townsend Public Affairs