



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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Mayors Hold Firm on Position of CDBG – Fully Fund it and Keep it at HUD

Mayors Give Update on CDBG Action at 73rd Annual Conference of Mayors Meeting in Chicago

Chicago, IL – On February 7th, the Bush Administration proposed in its FY '06 Budget the elimination of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Under the new proposal called *Strengthening America's Communities*, CDBG, as it has traditionally been known for the past 30 years, would no longer exist and would definitely have a devastating economic impact on cities, counties, and local communities of all sizes.

Immediately following the release of the President's budget, the United States Conference of Mayors, led by Conference President and Akron, Ohio Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic, along with a coalition of local officials and business leaders banded together to denounce the elimination of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and call for CDBG to remain in HUD and be fully funded at \$4.7 billion. CDBG has been the signature program for cities to create jobs, increase economic development opportunities and expand homeownership.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors President and Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic said, "This new proposal was completely unacceptable, and as mayors, we were extremely disappointed that this tactic was being used as an excuse to eliminate CDBG and cut much needed resources to local communities.

"A key priority of this Administration is stimulating the domestic economy by creating jobs and expanding home ownership, and that is exactly what CDBG does," he continued.

Over the past several months there have been a string of successful battles in the war to save CDBG, but there is still much more work to be done during this budget process and the mayors remain committed to continue our fight to save CDBG.

The nation's mayors contend that for the future of this nation, CDBG must not be eliminated, nor see any major cuts to the program. "CDBG has a history of success and to eliminate it would have a devastating economic effect on cities across the country. We will continue take our message to Capitol Hill to fight for our federal and local government partnerships that have been successful for over three decades," Plusquellic concluded.

More than 200 of the nation's mayors, led by Conference President and Akron, Ohio Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic, are in **Chicago June 10-14 for the 73rd Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)**, hosted by USCM Past President and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley.

All press MUST register to gain access to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting events. Advance registration is recommended. Press can pre-register online at www.usmayors.org/73rdAnnualMeeting, as well as, access the full agenda, press releases and media advisories.

On-site registration will also be accepted at the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel in the Private Dining Room #2 on the 3rd floor.

Working press covering any part of the meeting will be required to show a valid press identification with photograph. Only registered, credentialed members of the press will be permitted access to meeting events.

For more information, contact the press office in the Private Dining Room #2 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel at (312) 294-6796.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.

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