

<Name of the Organization>

2017

One Voice Regional Priorities Washington, DC

<TITLE OF THE PROPOSED REGIONAL PRIORITY>

Submitted by:

<Name and Contact Information>

Please try to keep the regional priority content at 1 ½ pages long. Please do not change font

An example is provided on page 3 of this document

**TITLE**

**SHORT INTRODUCTION OF REGIONAL PRIORITY AND ISSUE:**

**REQUEST SUMMARY-PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAILED“ASK”:**

- 1.
- 2.

**REQUEST BACKGROUND AND EXPLAIN THE REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

**IF NOT A TRANSPORTATION RELATED REQUEST, ARE THERE ANY TRANSPORTATION POLICY CONNECTIONS?**

**ARE THERE ANY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS?**

**ARE THERE ANY ATTACHMENTS?**

If yes, please describe what the attachment is and provide it as an enclosure.

**CONTACT:** (include your contact information **and** the contact information of the person that will be attending the One Voice trip who will speak on behalf of this request. *(Please include the name of a local elected official, if applicable, that will be participating in the trip who will also be representing this request):*

Name, Title  
Organization  
Address  
City, CA Zip Code  
Phone Number  
Email address

# **EXAMPLE**

## **SUPPORT CONTINUED AND INCREASED FUNDING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)**

### **SHORT INTRODUCTION:**

Support increased funding of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. CDBG funds are used effectively and discretionally by local government to address the unmet needs of low- and moderate-income families and their neighborhoods, and have significant positive impacts on local economies.

### **SUMMARY REQUEST:**

The FY 2015 funding for CDBG as set by Congress and signed by the President in December, 2014, was \$3 billion, a total of \$30 million below the FY 2014 level. This decrease was minimized due to the hard work by NACCED, NACo and other members of the Community Development Coalition (supporter groups).

- 1. Fresno COG advocates for the preservation of the CDBG program in FY2016**
- 2. Fresno COG advocates for continued and increased funding to \$3.3 billion for CDBG in FY 2016.**

### **REQUEST BACKGROUND:**

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding has been used in Fresno County since the inception of the CDBG program in 1975. All 15 cities as well as the unincorporated areas of Fresno County have benefited from this program. Recipients such as Fresno County have given priority to responsible activities that are awarded and/or constructed quickly to have an immediate positive impact on those in need.

Local governments in Fresno County, the same as in the State and other locales around the nation, have a backlog of such critical projects that are implemented efficiently and effectively and can positively impact the local economy for years to come.

The CDBG program suffered a massive 17% cut in FY11, and the program is at its lowest funding level since 1992. Such a cut has had devastating impacts at the local level which include staff layoffs, reduction in services, cancellation of much needed infrastructure and economic development projects, and activities that provide safe and affordable housing. CDBG is needed more than ever to help our low- and moderate-income communities.

### **IF NOT A TRANSPORTATION RELATED REQUEST, ARE THERE ANY TRANSPORTATION POLICY CONNECTIONS?**

Cuts in the CDBG program create a massive hardship on local agencies because local municipalities have to continue investments in much needed infrastructure and the available sources through competitive grant programs are not sufficient to maintain the needs of the communities.

### **ARE THERE ANY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS?**

Between 2007 and 2011 CDBG provided assistance to help over 174,000 businesses nationally expand operations and create and retain local jobs. Over the last decade, CDBG economic activities have directly created or retained more than 334,000 permanent jobs and sustained an additional 861,000 jobs nationally. Jobs sustained by the program include construction workers responsible for the rehabilitation of public facilities, infrastructure, and housing. Locally in Fresno County, the program has directly impacted these jobs while creating more sustainable communities that promote increased economic investment.

Notable 2014 accomplishments include:

#### **Caruthers Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements - \$300,000 CDBG**

Constructed an evaporation and percolation pond to increase disposal capacity of treated effluent, and included construction of a sludge digester.

#### **Kingsburg 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvements - \$158,430 CDBG**

Installed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps where they did not exist or were not up to standards, an asphalt overlay of the street, root treatment/removal of trees causing curb/gutter/sidewalk disruption, and the replacement of trees and damaged sidewalk, curb and gutter.

**Reedley Street Improvements - \$200,191 CDBG**

Constructed new sidewalk, curb, gutter, driveway approaches, ADA compliant curb returns, street widening, and new streetlights. Additionally, an existing water line was extended and an existing sewer line was upgraded to accommodate higher flows. Existing signs, utility poles and other infrastructure was modified, relocated and/or replaced to accommodate the new improvements.

**Selma Street & Alley Improvements - \$240,848 CDBG**

Constructed street improvements including edge grinding of existing asphalt concrete surface, application of an asphalt concrete overlay, striping and delineation of the roadway, and the installation of ADA compliant curb ramps. Modification or reconstruction of existing curbs, gutters, sidewalks and driveway approaches were also made to accommodate the new improvements. Additionally, improved alleyways including pulverizing the existing surface, recycling the pulverized materials compacted in place, and application of an asphalt concrete overlay.

**ARE THERE ANY ATTACHMENTS?**

County Supervisor Phil Larson offered the attached Op-Ed to Bee readers last year. In his comments, the Supervisor heralds the importance and effectiveness of the Community Services Block Grant and its history of strong interventions not only during emergencies, but an array of support to help our constituents become self-sufficient.

**CONTACT:**

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**Attending the One Voice trip**

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