

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

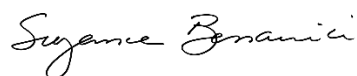
Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As we craft the next coronavirus relief legislation in our response to the coronavirus pandemic, we urge you to appropriate an additional \$250 million for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the nationwide network of more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies that CSBG supports. These local antipoverty agencies have been on the front lines since the outset of the crisis, responding to an explosion of needs in poor and low-income communities and serving clients who never before sought or needed help.

Congress recognized the unique ability of Community Action Agencies to act quickly and effectively in the current crisis by including \$1 billion in the CARES Act for CSBG and Community Action. Importantly, Congress also increased the eligibility criteria for CSBG services to 200 percent of poverty, providing essential flexibility to meet the wide-ranging needs of a growing clientele. As local agencies plan use of these new funds, the magnitude of the problem has grown exponentially and additional resources are critical.

Community Action is different from other programs that provide a particular service; Community Action works holistically to address whatever is necessary to resolve a short-term crisis or a longer-term barrier to self-sufficiency. Because of its flexibility, Congress has turned to the Community Action network before in times of crisis. During the financial crisis a decade ago, Congress appropriated \$1 billion for CSBG in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Our nation's Community Action Agencies are once again stepping up to help in a crisis. We urge you to support their efforts with additional resources.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Jim McGovern
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



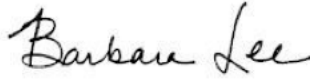
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



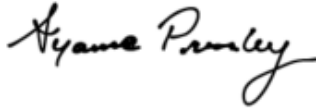
Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



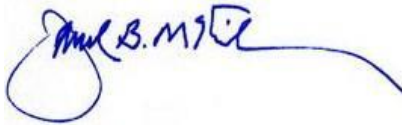
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



Jenniffer González Colón
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress

/s/

William R. Keating
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

/s/

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

/s/

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



TJ Cox
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Dan Meuser
Member of Congress



Hal Rogers
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress