

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1803

April 28, 2021

The Honorable David E. Price
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, Urban Development, and
Related Agencies

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, Urban Development, and
Related Agencies

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart,

As you consider the fiscal year 2022 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I strongly encourage robust funding for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program and the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

While we as a nation recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Louisiana has faced the unique challenge of recovering from not just the pandemic, but also a devastating hurricane season. As administered by HUD, the CDBG-DR and ESG programs provide a critical service to communities in need. The CDBG-DR program focuses on long-term recovery efforts such as repair or replacement of damaged housing; replacement of disaster-impacted residential appliances; and environmental health hazard mitigation costs related to the repair of a disaster-impacted property. On the other hand, the ESG program assists individuals and families regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness. Both of these programs will be vital as our state continues to assist homeowners and parishes with infrastructure and economic development opportunities.

These programs have provided much-needed assistance to our coastal communities in the past and will be needed as we rebuild and recover for the future. Thank you for prioritizing CDBG-DR and ESG funding in the fiscal year 2022 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Clay Higgins,
Member of Congress