

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND URGING CONGRESS TO RESTORE ITS FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was enacted, and signed into law by President Gerald Ford, as the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has as its primary objective "...the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income;" and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has considerable flexibility to allow communities to carry out activities that are tailored to their unique affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 30-year history, the CDBG program has been a partnership among the federal, state, and local governments, businesses, and the nonprofit sector, which carry out activities that improve the lives and neighborhoods of low and moderate income families; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in FY 2004 CDBG provided funds for thousands, assisting over 23 million persons and households through such activities as expanding homeownership activities, eliminating slums and blighting influences, improving infrastructure such as roads, water and sewer systems, libraries, community centers, adult day care and after-school care for children, homeless housing facilities, employment training, transportation services, crime awareness, and business and job creation; and

WHEREAS, Sussex County uses CDBG funds in the amount of \$1,436,000.00 for housing rehabilitation, demolition, and wastewater hook-ups; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY 2006 Budget proposes to completely eliminate the CDBG program; and

WHEREAS, should such a proposal be enacted, it would have a devastating effect on Sussex County's CDBG program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 15th day of March 2005, the Sussex County Council hereby calls on the Congress to preserve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program within the Department of Housing and Urban Development and provide a FY 2006 funding of at least \$4.7 billion overall, with no less than \$4.35 billion in formula funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to United States Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr., United States Senator Thomas R. Carper and United States Congressman Michael N. Castle.

Finley B. Jones, President