

# Declaration of National Community Development Week

## *April 12 - 18, 2004*

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**Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development**

There are few things that are certain in these uncertain times; however one certainty continues to be the Community Development Block Grant program. This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this great program, which has become the foundation of virtually all community and economic development occurring across the nation. As Assistant Secretary of the Office of Community Planning and Development, it is an honor for my tenure to coincide with this significant milestone in the history of the CDBG program.

HUD has a long history of “being there” and providing help for people, particularly those with the greatest needs— our lower income constituents. CDBG has certainly been there, during boom years and most importantly in times of tightening budgets, which place greater demands on existing services. We must continue to support and build upon programs that work, those that have a proven record of flexibility and the ability to fit in with locally determined needs. CDBG is such a program and ranks among our nation’s oldest and most successful programs. It continues to set the standard for all other block grant programs.

Signed into law on August 22, 1974, by President Gerald Ford, CDBG is the most reliable source of funding for addressing the critical social, economic, and environmental problems in our cities. Its design puts funding back into the cities where it is specifically targeted to those individuals whom, without these funds, would not have access to services that only CDBG can provide. Its primary objective is the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing, suitable living environments, and expanded economic opportunities, principally for low-and moderate-income persons. CDBG’s greatest strength, however, is its approach to solving problems through a locally-driven, citizen participation process.

For cities large and small, urban and rural, CDBG has been the driving force for housing rehabilitation, neighborhood improvements, and local economic development initiatives. It has improved water and sewer systems, provided loans for business development, supported services for lower income elderly and children, and expanded homeownership opportunities. CDBG continues to help create a better standard of living for all of America’s people. I ask you to join with HUD, the National Community Development Association, and over 1,100 municipalities, counties, and states in celebrating 30 years of the most popular domestic program of our time, CDBG: helping **C**ommunities **D**evelop, **B**uild, **G**row! CDBG still delivers.

As Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, I am proud to declare April 12-18, as National Community Development Week for 2004.



Assistant Secretary  
Community Planning and Development