

Introduced by Treece Council Bill No. R 57-17

A RESOLUTION

expressing support for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in the community, to improve lower income neighborhood infrastructure and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 43-year history, the CDBG program has been a partnership of the federal, state and local governments, businesses, and the nonprofit sector to carryout activities that improve the lives, housing and neighborhoods of low-income households; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia uses CDBG funds in the amount of approximately \$830,000.00 annually to provide funding for low- and moderate-income persons, particularly those specifically targeted as minority populations, elderly and disabled persons, through such activities as owner-occupied residential rehabilitation, neighborhood infrastructure improvement, job training, community facility renovation and fair housing education; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia completed 691 CDBG-funded activities from 1994 through March 31, 2017 serving low-income populations and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program is the centerpiece of the City of Columbia's support for the development of affordable housing and was authorized in 1990 as part of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act; and

WHEREAS, the HOME program is the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households through the construction, purchase, and/or rehabilitation of affordable housing for rent or homeownership; and

WHEREAS, the HOME program has considerable flexibility to allow communities to carryout affordable housing activities that are tailored to their unique affordable housing needs; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 25-year history, the HOME program has been a partnership of the federal, state and local governments, businesses, and the nonprofit sector to carryout activities that improve the lives, housing and neighborhoods of low-income households; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia uses HOME funds in the amount of approximately \$400,000.00 annually to provide funding for low- and moderate-income persons, particularly those specifically targeted as minority populations, elderly and disabled persons, through such activities as down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers, owner-occupied residential rehabilitation, construction of new owner occupied and multi-family rental construction; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia has completed HOME-funded activities on 951 housing units from 1994 through March 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia's HOME-funded Down Payment Assistance Program leveraged over \$4 million in private investment and assisted 35 households to become first-time homebuyers in FY 2016; and

WHEREAS, President Trump's FY 2018 budget proposes to eliminate the CDBG and HOME programs, while funding for FY 2017 also remains uncertain, which would result in a drastic reduction of services and investment in lower-income Columbia households and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, if President Trump's proposal is enacted, the City's ability to address the community development, infrastructure, economic development and affordable housing needs for low-income households and neighborhoods will be greatly diminished.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby expresses its support for and calls on Congress to preserve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and provide level funding amounts of \$3 billion for CDBG funding and \$950 million in HOME funding for FY 2017 and FY 2018 individually.

SECTION 2. The City Manager is hereby directed to send copies of this resolution to appropriate elected officials.

ADOPTED this 17th day of April, 2017.

ATTEST:




City Clerk



Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Counselor