



Mayor Lisa Brown

July 10, 2025

Dear Congressman Baumgartner,

I am joining a bipartisan group of mayors from across the country in encouraging you and your colleagues in the House of Representatives to protect and preserve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

CDBG is one of the most vital programs for American cities and has been a force in urban revitalization across the country, and right here in Spokane. These funds empower local governments to respond to unique community needs, from improving sidewalks and public spaces to creating jobs and preserving affordable housing.

Here in Spokane, CDBG investments have helped revitalize neighborhoods. The City of Spokane has set aside some of this funding for our neighborhood councils, who have worked collaboratively with their neighborhoods to identify needed improvements. This year, the neighborhoods have set aside funds for updates in their local parks.

This funding also is critical for ensuring vulnerable residents in our community stay safely housed. This funding goes directly to:

- Capital investments in affordable and transitional housing
- Investments in community food banks for seniors, children, and individuals
- Legal, advocacy, and supportive services for children and adult victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
- Critical maintenance updates like roofing, HVAC, and ADA accessibility in family shelters and youth service facilities
- Workforce training programs for low-income women
- Critical investments in childcare centers
- Down payment assistance for low-income homeownership
- Single family home repair programing for low-income households

CDBG is not about bureaucracy or abstract budgets. It is an investment in the people of Spokane – your constituents – who rely on this funding. In light of President Trump’s Big Beautiful Bill, which slashes Medicaid and food assistance and raises utility costs, the proposed elimination of CDBG would be another gut punch to working families. This is not just another federal program. It is a lifeline to underserved neighborhoods and is essential for local, neighborhood infrastructure and housing development in Spokane.

I hope you will stand with leaders from both parties in recognizing that local communities are often best equipped to solve local challenges, and that flexible, reliable funding like CDBG is

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essential to doing so. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you further and share examples of how this program has made a difference right here in Spokane.

Sincerely,

Lisa Brown

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