

United States Senate

March 21, 2020

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban
Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban
Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Crapo and Ranking Member Brown:

As you help develop the next bill in response to COVID-19, we ask that you support waiving the public services cap for Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) funds during the pandemic, in order to give state and local governments more flexibility to address their community needs.

As you know, CDBG entitlement communities and states may not use more than 15 percent of their annual allocation, plus any program income, for public services activities. However, as a result of COVID-19, public services, such as meals to the elderly, assistance to local food banks, and school lunches for low-income kids are in higher demand than usual. Our cities need flexibility, past the 15 percent cap, to provide meal assistance and other vital public services to alleviate the influx of demand and address constituent needs during the ongoing crisis.

In light of the President declaring a national emergency over the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you support waiving the public services cap for CDBG funds and allow state and local governments flexibility to address critical community needs.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator