

**NLC RESOLUTION #2009-16**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) is the most effective form of federal assistance currently available to local governments -- it is the most successful federal block grant and the model against which all future federal programs must be measured; and

**WHEREAS**, CDBG provides cities and counties with annual predictable levels of funding to address their unique low- and moderate-income neighborhood revitalization needs; and

**WHEREAS**, CDBG successfully mobilizes resources and addresses housing, community and economic development, and physical infrastructure needs in communities across the country.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National League of Cities urges the federal government to increase funding for CDBG as an investment in the future of America’s communities;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that to lower administrative costs of local communities in complying with CDBG, the federal government must provide a streamlined process for administration of CDBG funds, and this process should capitalize on the performance reports currently being submitted by communities in compliance with the program;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress to maintain the broad flexibility given to local governments to use CDBG funds in their communities, because that flexibility is critical to the effectiveness of the CDBG program; thus NLC opposes any new federal restrictions on CDBG eligible uses.

**NLC RESOLUTION #2009-17**

**SUPPORTING REFORM OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE**

**WHEREAS**, TAA legislation expired December 31, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. exports to major global markets grew by more than 20 percent in 2007 and international commerce has a direct impact on the U.S. economy as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, free trade agreements must be accompanied with vigorous and innovative economic policies domestically to protect the workers that drive our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, services comprise 80 percent of the U.S. economy; and

**WHEREAS**, some of the fastest growing export markets for American goods, such as India, Brazil, and Germany, do not have FTA's with the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. workers deserve to have their abilities honored with the opportunity to retool, retrain and get back to work.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) supports reform of the Trade Adjustment Assistance program (TAA) to combine the current TAA program with the current TAA-NAFTA program and extend coverage to primary and secondary workers (suppliers, contract servicers and downstream producers), as well as to extend trade beyond FTA partner countries;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments endorse extending the coverage to include workers in agriculture, aquaculture, and commercial fishing businesses that are adversely impacted by the global economy;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments endorse extending the TAA programs to service workers, as well as increasing the current health care tax credit percentage for all eligible workers;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that training funds available to workers must be increased, directed toward low skilled workers and workers with limited English language facility, and focused on ensuring that workers acquire marketable skills;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments strongly urge the federal government to endorse a trade policy that lowers trade barriers overseas while also building a broad trade consensus domestically.

## **NLC RESOLUTION #2009-18**

### **MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE PREVENTION SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, foreclosure devastates the individuals and families that are losing their homes, as well as the neighborhoods where there are a concentration of foreclosed homes; and

**WHEREAS**, experts predict that by the end of 2008, nearly two million homeowners will have lost their homes to foreclosure, up from about 400,000 in 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the funds required to rehabilitate, demolish, or transfer the thousands of properties impacted by the foreclosure crisis are far beyond the capacity of local jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the expansion of housing counseling and intervention services, providing options for homeowners to refinance or restructure their mortgages, and addressing the need to help communities recover from the aftermath of foreclosures are important steps in combating the foreclosure and housing crisis facing our constituents, and

**WHEREAS**, the National League of Cities seeks to address this crisis in a comprehensive way by providing a continuum of services and strategies on the federal, state and local levels to prevent and ameliorate home mortgage foreclosures and neighborhood blight with the subsequent abandoned housing.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities supports federal legislation that:

- expands current Community Development Block Grant funds to specifically include foreclosure prevention services such as homebuyer counseling, credit repair, and mortgage restructuring counseling, that are targeted to benefit low- and moderate-income persons;
- eliminates the CDBG provision limiting public services funds to 15%;
- acts to remove obstacles preventing bankruptcy courts from restructuring home mortgages to help people avoid foreclosure;
- prohibits unfair and deceptive mortgage lending practices; and
- Requires banks participating in the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) to postpone foreclosures for ninety days for families making a good faith effort to pay their mortgages so that homeowners have an extended opportunity to pursue viable alternatives to foreclosure.