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**Chief Executive Officer/
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Clarence E. Anthony

September 20, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Republican Leader McConnell and Republican Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the nation's more than 19,000 cities, towns and villages, the National League of Cities (NLC) urges you to keep the needs of local governments in mind as the Senate and House continue work on the Build Back Better Act. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will help cities rebuild our country's essential infrastructure, and programs supported in the budget bill could support the extensive work needed ahead of our communities.

We encourage you to prioritize the following programs from the House budget reconciliation package for inclusion in a final bill:

Technical Assistance for Local Government Grantees

- Funding for technical assistance and capacity building for local government grantees of every size to improve program implementation and outcomes. Technical assistance programs include:
 - USDA Rural Partnership Program (Agriculture, Section 12008).
 - HUD Community-Led Capacity Building (Financial Services, Section 40302).
 - EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance and EDA Recompete Pilot Program (Transportation and Infrastructure, Sections 110018 and 110019).

Transportation

- \$10 billion to support access to affordable housing and enhance mobility for low-income individuals and residents of disadvantaged or persistent poverty communities.
- \$4 billion for reduction of carbon pollution in the surface transportation sector—addressing the largest source of transportation greenhouse gas emissions.

- \$9.5 billion to the Economic Development Administration to provide investments in persistently distressed communities, provide assistance to energy and industrial transition communities, and invest in public works projects, and create regional hubs.
- \$6 billion to advance local surface transportation projects.
- \$4 billion to support neighborhood equity, safety, and affordable transportation access, including reconnecting communities divided by existing infrastructure barriers.

Workforce Development

- \$80 billion in workforce development programming (Education and Labor, Subtitle C) including:
 - \$16 billion to support Dislocated Workers (Education and Labor, Section 22001).
 - \$15 billion in adult Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs (Education and Labor, Section 22002).
 - \$9 billion in youth Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs (Education and Labor, Section 22003).
 - \$5 billion in apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships and youth apprenticeships (Education and Labor, Section 22006).
 - \$2 billion in community college and industry partnerships (Education and Labor, Section 22007).
 - \$10 billion in industry and sector partnerships (Education and Labor, Section 22008).
 - \$4 billion in career and technical education (Education and Labor, Section 22102).

Water

- Grants and technical assistance for local governments for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects, including:
 - \$495 million to support small, rural, and other economically challenged communities in meeting the technical and financial requirements of the Clean Water Act, as well as to invest in maintaining an adequate supply of trained personnel to operate and maintain existing and future sewage treatment plants (Transportation and Infrastructure, Section 110027).
 - \$125 million grants for alternative water source projects, including projects for groundwater recharge and potable reuse (Transportation and Infrastructure, Section 110028).
 - \$2 billion for sewer overflow and stormwater reuse projects (Transportation and Infrastructure, Section 110029).
 - \$450 million for the installation, repair, or replacement of domestic septic systems, including investment in connecting households with failing septic systems to public sewer systems (Transportation and Infrastructure, Section 110030).
 - \$30 billion through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for lead pipe replacement (Energy and Commerce, Section 30301). We recognize that this program is also funded through the IJA but want to emphasize the importance of and need for grants, not loans, for communities to fully remove and replace lead pipes and service lines, particularly those on private property.
 - \$500 million in grants to community water systems to improve their risk and resilience to natural disasters and intentional acts (Energy and Commerce, Section 30302).

- \$700 million in grants to reduce lead in school drinking water (Energy and Commerce, Section 30305).
- \$100 million for grants to encourage the extension of drinking water service into underserved areas affected by natural disasters (Energy and Commerce, Section 30307).
- \$200 million for grants through the Assistance for Disadvantaged Communities program (Energy and Commerce, Section 30308).
- \$100 million for grants to cover the cost of contaminant monitoring (Energy and Commerce, Section 30309).
- \$100 million for technical assistance for small public water systems (Energy and Commerce, Section 30310).

Climate Change

- \$150 billion for Clean Electricity Performance Program (Energy and Commerce, Section 30411).
- \$18 billion for residential efficiency and electrification rebates (Energy and Commerce, Sections 30421 and 30422).
- \$7 billion for building efficiency and resilience (Energy and Commerce, Sections 30431, 30432, and 30433).
- \$5 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (Energy and Commerce, Section 30482). We recognize that this program is also funded through the IJA but want to emphasize support for providing funds directly to local governments for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- Creation of and funding for a Civilian Climate Corps (Natural Resources, Section 70202, 70509; Agriculture 11001).

Housing

- \$90 billion for new rental assistance vouchers (Financial Services, Section 40009).
- \$80 billion to preserve public housing (Financial Services, Section 40001).
- \$37 billion in the national Housing Trust Fund to build and preserve homes affordable to people with the lowest incomes (Financial Services, Section 40002).
- Funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program and the Home Investment Partnership Program to build necessary infrastructure for additional units of affordable and workforce housing (Financial Services, Sections 40101 and 40002).

Parks and Outdoor Space

- \$100 million for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program (Natural Resources, Section 70206).
- \$100 million for Every Kid Outdoors (Natural Resources, Section 70207).

Digital Equity and Technology

- \$10 billion for grants to upgrade existing 9-1-1 infrastructure to Next Generation 9-1-1 standards (Energy and Commerce, Section 31101).
- \$4 billion for grants to extend the Emergency Connectivity Fund program to support broadband access and equipment for students and library patrons (Energy and Commerce, Section 31301)

and support for a subsidy for qualifying low-income households to purchase connected devices, such as laptops or tablets.

- Creation of a tax credit for state, local and tribal governments for the operation and maintenance costs of public broadband networks (Ways and Means, Section 125111).

Community Violence Prevention

- \$2.5 billion for grants to support intervention strategies, training, technical assistance, research, evaluation, and data collection strategies to reduce community violence (Judiciary, Section 61001).

Infrastructure Financing

- Advance refunding bonds (Ways and Means, Section 135102).
- Permanent modification of small issuer exception to tax-exempt interest expense allocation rules for financial institutions (Ways and Means, Section 135103).

We look forward to working with you to invest in the future of our communities and our nation's infrastructure. If you have any questions about these priorities, please contact Irma Esparza Diggs, NLC Senior Executive and Director of Federal Advocacy, at 202-626-3176 or diggs@nlc.org.

Sincerely,



Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director

CC: Members of the United States Senate
Members of the United States House of Representatives