NACo applauds Rep. Fattah efforts to restore CDBG cuts

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo) today applauded Rep. Chaka Fattah’s (D-Pa.), chairman of the Congressional Urban Caucus, for introduction of an amendment in the House Appropriations Committee to restore funding cuts from the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG).

Last week, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development passed its FY2014 bill which made drastic cuts CDBG program. The bill reduced CDBG formula grants by nearly 50 percent – from $3.08 billion in FY2013 to $1.6 billion in FY2014.

Rep. Fattah’s amendment, introduced Thursday, would have restored funding to $3.3 billion. Unfortunately, the amendment failed along party lines.

“Despite the setback, NACo will continue to work closely with Rep. Fattah and other members of Congress to see CDBG funds restored,” said NACo Executive Director Matt Chase. “Congress cannot balance the budget on the backs of working families by sharply reducing programs like CDBG.”

NACo is also working aggressively to restore funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, which was cut by $250 million. Both the CDBG and HOME program funding levels would be historic lows.

Counties use the flexibility of CDBG to partner with private and non-profit sectors to address local community and economic development, housing, water, infrastructure and human service needs. Counties rely on the HOME program for affordable housing. HOME eligible activities include new construction and rehabilitation of rental and home buyer units, down payment assistance to qualified home buyers, and tenant-based rental assistance.

For more information, contact Jim Philipps at 202.942.4220 or jphilipps@naco.org.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,069 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.