Winning in the Era of Dysfunction

A blueprint for how Community Action can mobilize for victory!

By David Bradley, CEO of National Community Action Foundation
Introduction

Like so many of you I find the current state of Washington to be one of dysfunction, extreme partisanship, legislative gridlock, filled with the drama occurring almost daily at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, and to a larger extent than ever before, controlled by the powerful special interests.

The old swamp may have been partially drained, but the new swamp in Washington is to a large extent controlled by deadly and more dangerous fish. As one who has spent virtually my entire professional career working with Congress, and who is still an optimist about Congress and the legislative process, I find today’s governing process deeply troubling. It bothers me that the public’s trust in our institutions, our Congress, our justice system are at an all time low. The Congress’ inability or unwillingness to address our nation’s most pressing economic and social needs defies logic. It should not take Congress six months to finalize this year’s spending levels. Passing five short term continuing resolutions is unacceptable. DACA and our nation’s immigration policies cry out for action.

We are back in an era of $1 trillion deficits with the national debt expected to breach $30 trillion in the next 10 years. Soon interest payments on the national debt will exceed all the federal government's spending on domestic discretionary programs. A day of reckoning is coming and the choices grow harder and more painful the longer we wait. Already, there are some in Congress, once safely past the 2018 midterm congressional elections, who want to target entitlements and low-income programs as the opening salvo in their efforts to scale back the size, scope and purpose of the federal government.

Common sense tells us that in light of the recent Florida school shootings, Congress must address issues such as background checks, mental illness and bump stocks. The odds heavily favor the status quo. The powerful special interests win again.

Such is the world we find ourselves in, and especially the Congress that we are forced to live with.

But to paraphrase Franklin Roosevelt, it is not with despair that I list just a few of the many frustrations and problems confronting our nation and our program. Instead it is with motivation, excitement and commitment that I propose a blueprint for how Community Action can achieve its legislative agenda. I know that we can be successful despite all of the current dysfunction. All it really takes is for each of us to commit to mobilize and take action to achieve victory!
About This Memo

This memo contains a number of components. The first part defines success. What is it that we hope to achieve in Congress this year and in the coming years? What should we expect from this Administration, and just what should they expect from us?

Just as importantly, what role should Community Action play in some of the larger debates in Congress and in society at large that really define who we are and what we hope to be. Most importantly, the memo offers some short observations on what we should expect of ourselves. Answering all of these prompts helps answer the question: how should we define success?

The second part will discuss -in some detail- each of the particular challenges we, as a network, have to address. I will highlight the key members in Congress impacting the outcome of those issues.

Furthermore, I will discuss NCAF’s strategy, the challenges we face in Congress on a particular issue, and perhaps most importantly NCAF’s responsibility and requirements in each endeavour.

I’ll try to offer some candid assessments of members, committees, and Congress. I hope that I am equally candid in describing NCAF action items, what NCAF needs to improve upon and action items for the network to undertake. Part two includes items on our agenda: finalizing FY2018 spending; the FY2019 Budget (including the Trump budget request); FY2019 Appropriations for CSBG, LIHEAP and Weatherization; and CSBG and Weatherization reauthorization.

The memo also describes our opioid initiative. Attached to the e-mail carrying this memo, you will find a supplemental attachments including the opioid legislation that is ready to be introduced as well as the summary of the bill that we use with Congress.

The final items the memo addresses include a CAPPAC appeal, a listing of the most important members (to Community Action) in Congress, and what NCAF needs from the network.

Finally, although each section will contain specific action items; the last part of this memo will also contain a summarized version of these action items.

I hope you will take the time to read and even re-read this message. Feel free to print some copies for others. Share the memo with your Board, and discuss it with important political, legislative and community partners.

We have a long and difficult road ahead of us. Our journey won’t be easy or quick. But I remain absolutely convinced it can and will be successful.
Defining Success

In an era of trillion dollar deficits, a dysfunctional Congress and an Administration that wants to eliminate CSBG, Weatherization, and LIHEAP, it would be easy to think that survival would be enough to qualify as success.

Over the years, I have found that in moments of extreme challenge, in times during which the viability of the network is most threatened, that these are the moments of opportunities and possibilities. Just remember, the Reagan Revolution, the Contract with American and ARRA in the end all created openings to advance our legislative agenda.

I realize that outside forces, events far beyond our reach to impact, may change the congressional and/or presidential landscape. It is reasonable to set our success benchmarks based on the political and legislative environment of today.

Therefore we should consider Washington legislative success as follows:

1. Consistent growth in funding for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). The goal is to increase CSBG funding by \( \frac{1}{3} \) in the next 3 - 4 years.
2. Reauthorize CSBG with more than 218 co-sponsors in the House and more than 40 in the Senate.
3. Originate new significant legislative opportunities for the CAA network each year. Although congressional passage and presidential acceptance of new policy initiatives is far from certain, it is extremely important that the CAA network be seen as part of the answer or solution to policies being addressed. The goal for each one of our proposals is to gain more resources for CAAs. This year its our opioids initiative. Next year perhaps welfare reform.
4. Reauthorize Weatherization, protect the CAA role and dramatically grow its funding. Addressing these goals in Weatherization will be perhaps the most difficult legislative undertaking we encounter.
5. Sharpen the advocacy skills of the Community Action network. Having 1,100 agencies working, in unison, on legislative goals is an extremely powerful legislative tool. A sustained effort by the entire network may very well be the difference between success and failure on funding and other congressional opportunities.
6. Increase the number of agency visits by members of Congress. Today’s uncertain political environment combined with the realization that many members of Congress are looking for small, easier items to do for their communities presents us with a golden opportunity to explain how important your Community Action agency is in the community. Many members that I meet with in Congress have expressed an eagerness to spend time back in their districts touring our agencies and learning about our programs. In all the years I’ve worked with Congress, I have never had this many members of Congress ask for this opportunity. As some of you already know, we have a large number of these visits already scheduled.
7. Increase our political involvement. We want to grow our influence and political effectiveness in Washington. A robust CAPPAC allows us to support both Republican and Democratic allies.
8. Identify a congressional Community Action Champion.

Although we all have other items we would like to see accomplished on behalf of the network, if together we accomplish the eight listed above, a variety of new opportunities will be possible.

Finalizing FY2018 Appropriations

The one positive result of the recent congressional Continuing Resolution fight was that the overall spending caps for both FY2018 and FY2019 were finally set for both defense and domestic discretionary spending. Under normal times these spending levels would have been set last September. By the time the House and Senate Appropriations Committees finish their negotiations, we will be six months into the fiscal year.

The good news is that both FY2018 and FY2019 domestic discretionary spending receive a significant increase; far above the levels agreed to in the 2011 budget agreement. For both FY2018 and FY2019, the threat of sequestration cuts have been put off. Program spending increases are possible. This may be the last such opportunity available for quite a while.

As you may recall, in successfully increasing domestic spending, Senate Democrats often highlighted their priorities for any funding increases. Education, health and a select few others topped the list. Their list for proposed increases contained almost none of the Community Action core programs. Our fears were that all of the proposed domestic spending increases would be allocated to just a few programs. Here is what we now know:

- Key House Democratic Appropriators, as well as House Democratic Leadership, have confirmed that the Appropriations Committees will decide spending levels, and that no deals are in place on how money is spent.
- The new, higher FY2018 spending levels are being allocated to the 12 appropriations subcommittees. Consequently, House and Senate negotiations have not started yet. All indications are that things will really begin moving during the week of February 26th.
- The Republican chairman and the ranking Democrat on each of the appropriations subcommittees will decide program funding. This is referred to as the “four corners.”
Labor-HHS

So for Labor-HHS appropriations (which includes CSBG, LIHEAP, Headstart, job training & child care) the key members are:

**House**

*Labor-HHS chairman*
Rep. Tom Cole (R-Oklahoma)

*Ranking Democrat on Labor-HHS subcommittee*
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Connecticut)

**Senate**

*Labor-HHS chairman*
Senator Roy Blunt (R-Missouri)

*Ranking Democrat on Labor-HHS subcommittee*
Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington)
Action Item

1. Rep. Jim Costa will be circulating a CSBG “Dear Colleague” appropriations letter to Cole and DeLauro.

   We are asking for $750 million for CSBG. The letter will be circulated when Congress returns next week for its President Holiday recess. We will let you know when it is released.

   ASK YOUR MEMBER TO SIGN. WE ESPECIALLY NEED REPUBLICAN SIGNATURES.

2. A number of House Republicans vocally supported CSBG funding during the appropriations process. I’ve circled back and asked a number of them to contact Labor-HHS Chairman Cole and ask for $750 million.

   It is important to remember that Chairman Cole has expressed support for restoring any cuts in CSBG funding throughout the process.

   Amongst those I have contacted and asked to speak with Cole are:

   - Representative David Joyce (R-OH)
   - Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY)
   - Representative Claudia Tenney (R-NY)
   - Representative Charlie Dent (R-PA)
   - Representative David Young (R-IA)
   - Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY)

   If one of the Republicans listed is your member, please let them know we appreciate their commitment to higher CSBG funding. Contact them in the district or when they are back in Washington. They need to hear from their constituents that you recognize they are advocating for your agency.

   All of these members are extremely important in determining our success. With the exception of Tenney and Stefanik, all four are key members of the Appropriations Committee.

   It is worth noting that we are not alone in asking for increases. Thousands of lobbyists representing hundreds of programs and special interests are bombarding the Congress with similar requests.

   Thanking the six key Republicans listed, letting Chairman Cole know that his district supports CSBG funding, and asking your Republican House members to sign on to the Costa CSBG funding letter is key.

   Remember, don’t ask until we give the green light; which will probably be the middle of this week.
Ranking Labor-HHS Democrat DeLauro has CSBG funding as one of her highest priorities. We may ask House Democratic leadership to weigh in.

In the Senate we have asked a number of members to speak with, depending on party affiliation, either Chairman Blunt or Ranking Member Murray.

Finalizing FY2018 spending in the Senate will involve more of an inside game. It seems as if every special interest is launching a Dear Colleague appropriations letter. Consequently, the best approach - the one likely to be most effective - is member to member contact.

Because Senate Democrats really can claim ownership on the increased domestic spending, they will have considerable influence in the final negotiations.

Our list of which Democrat might be willing to speak with Senator Murray on behalf of a $750 million CSBG appropriation is the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee members:

- Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
- Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
- Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)
- Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT)

In addition, ranking Democrat on the full Appropriations Committee Patrick Leahy (D-VT) is especially important. Leahy has weighed in before on CSBG, and it was quite well received and useful.

Other Senate Democrats who should be asked to weigh in with Senator Murray include a number who are up for reelection in 2018. These include:

- Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)
- Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
- Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
- Senator Jon Tester (D-MT)
- Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
- Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN)

With Chairman Roy Blunt (R-Missouri), these are a number of key Republican Senators who should be approached about speaking to Senator Blunt on behalf of CSBG appropriations:

- Senator John Boozman (R-AR)
- Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)
- Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
- Senator John Thune (R-SD)
- Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)
- Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
- Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT)
Weatherization FY2018

FY2017 funding for Weatherization is $228 million

For FY2018 the House proposes $228 million

For FY2018 the Senate proposes $215 million

Similar to the scenario for the Labor-HHS appropriations process - the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittees final funding decisions will be made by four important members, listed below.

**House**

*Energy & Water subcommittee chairman*

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho)

*Ranking Democrat on Energy & Water subcommittee*

Rep. Marcy kaptur (D-Ohio)

**Senate**

*Energy & Water subcommittee chairman*

Senator Lamar Alexander (R-Tennessee)

*Ranking Democrat on Energy & Water subcommittee*

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California)

Of the four members, Simpson and Kaptur are the most likely to strongly advocate for higher Weatherization funding. However, all four are very important to us.

The Weatherization amount we recommend for FY2018 is $230 million. $250 million was initially our goal this year, but it appears $230 million is more achievable at this time.
As far as approaching these important members is concerned, again, member to member interaction is the preferable method. The list of members who are best to speak with chairman Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) are:

- Representative David Joyce (R-OH)
- Representative Dan Newhouse (R-WA)
- Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY)

Representatives Joyce and Newhouse are members of E&W appropriations, and Representative Rogers is a long time appropriator.

The best approach to talk to Ranking member Kaptur is from her district CAAs.

The FY2019 Budget

By now you are probably aware of three things related to the FY2019 Budget process.

First, the Trump budget proposal was (at least for 2019) dead on arrival to Congress.

Second, House and Senate Budget Committees plan very sparse, bare bones budget resolutions for FY2019. Republicans are playing defense on budget matters before this November midterm elections. Don’t expect any wild cuts or ambitious agenda items this year. Some are even predicting, that because the spending caps have already been agreed to for both FY2018 and FY2019, a budget resolution is not really necessary. They ask: Why put Republican members, who already face strong electoral headwinds, to cast unpopular votes?

The third aspect of the FY2019 budget needs also to be mentioned. Although the Trump budget proposal may not go anywhere in Congress, and that Congress is likely to avoid deep specific program cuts for FY2019, don’t be fooled. The budget debate that is being forecast for 2019 (debating the FY2020 budget) will be extremely difficult and partisan.

Even though the drama surrounding the FY2019 budget resolution may be a little less pronounced than some in Washington or the media may lead you to believe, this year’s budget process affords us an excellent opportunity to reset our advocacy approach to Congress.

For whatever reason, a number of CAAs felt restricted in their response to last years congressional budget debates. Some agencies felt that communications with Congress, even with your own House member and Senators, constituted lobbying. Maybe I didn’t communicate or articulate clearly the rationale or needs to
inform Congress of what would happen in their district or states if CSBG, LIHEAP and Weatherization funding were eliminated.

Yet I have heard from literally dozens of Senators and House members, both Republicans and Democrats that they want to hear, they must be informed on the impact of congressional funding decisions in their district and states.

I believe there was a direct correlation between the amount of mail and communication heard from their district and states, and what programs Senate Democrats prioritized during the spending debates.

Remember - virtually every other program is flooding Congress with facts, fears and funding requests for the upcoming fiscal year.

We will be working with the network on what to prepare, how to prepare and who needs to communicate the information to Congress.

For the very short term, please be thinking about the following:

- What unique programs of partnerships does your agency have that will be terminated if CSBG is ended?
- What is the impact of Weatherization and LIHEAP in your community or state? How many individuals and families are impacted by these programs?
- If your agency had to close its doors, what impact would be felt in the community? Is there any organization that would take your place?
- Who are the best spokespersons or advocate for the work and services your agency provides? Are they ready to speak out? Maybe it’s the elected officials, the faith community, the private sector, or individual and families who have been helped.

The fact that your agency remains a trusted community institution counts for a lot in this time of political turmoil. This makes it much easier to communicate and connect with Congress, and to have members want to visit your agency and programs.

I spent some time over this past weekend listing the members of both the House and Senate with whom we have a working relationship. In both the House and Senate the numbers are over 70%. In other words, we know a lot of members of Congress as does the network. Together we can design the best approach to communicating with your delegation.
FY2019 Appropriations

For FY2019 spending, NCAF supports:

- CSBG more than $750 million
- Weatherization $250 million
- LIHEAP $3.8 billion, which includes a $400 million contingency fund. This fund is already authorized.

There will be a number of Dear Colleague letters circulating on the programs in the House and Senate. On CSBG I would expect a Merkley Senate letter, as well as a Costa/Fitzpatrick House Appropriations letter. Be prepared to ask your member to sign on!

In addition, every House and Senate member will send individual letters to the appropriate appropriations subcommittee. Although we are still finalizing FY2018 spending, these letters will be well underway - and perhaps finished - by the time of the NCAF Legislative Conference.

We will expect Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Representative David McKinley (R-WV) to circulate a Weatherization appropriations letter. Although our funding goal is to exceed $250 million, we will circulate a Weatherization letter recommending as high a funding level for Weatherization that the members will feel comfortable with. It will probably end up recommending $230 million.

Again, the individual letters (in which you have asked them to include our programs) are very important.

- For Weatherization; send the member letters to Energy and Water appropriators.
- For CSBG and LIHEAP; send the member letter to Labor-HHS appropriators.

Over the years the Community Action network has benefitted millions of low-income individuals and families. We have partnered with thousands of nonprofits and private sector organizations and we have helped local government address critical needs in their communities for 53 years. This is the year we ask them to return the favor and let Congress know of the value of our work and our agencies.

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We will need to flood Congress with support letters. I am confident that a surprising number of members of Congress in both parties will respond favorably.

CSBG Reauthorization

Trying to reauthorize a low-income program in this dysfunctional environment is proving extremely difficult. Originally our strategy was to introduce the Senate bill first, followed quickly by the House introduction. We have so far been unable to secure a lead Democrat to cosponsor the legislation with Republican Senator Susan Collins. Remember there are a finite number of Democrats who are the ideal sponsor.

Because of the delays in the Senate, we now expect the House to introduce the CSBG reauthorization soon. In the last two weeks I have met with House Republican leadership about our CSBG efforts.

Representatives Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) will be the sponsors.

I had lunch with both House members on February 2nd. The goal now is introduction before our conference.

It is an unfortunate fact that the congressional window for considering legislation is quickly closing. Our immediate goal is 1) House introduction, 2) exceeding 150 cosponsors, 3) secure a majority of House Education and Workforce Committee members as cosponsors, and 4) keep leadership of both parties informed.

Action item

5. Upon introduction please help us secure your member as a cosponsor! Last Congress we were able to garner 120 cosponsors on the CSBG reauthorization bill. Forty six percent of them were Republicans!

Included in this email as an attachment is a copy of our bill (remember, it is awaiting introduction), our bill summary, and document I use with Congress describing CSBG and the Community Action program. Please read them over, but do not circulate them as of yet.
Weatherization Reauthorization

Weatherization, like CSBG, LIHEAP and Headstart, is overdue for reauthorization. The good news is that a number of Senators want to reauthorize Weatherization this year. The bad news is that some of what they are proposing, we oppose.

Key Senate Energy leaders have told us that they feel Congress will not consider sweeping energy legislation this year. Prospects are equally uncertain in the House.

However, we are engaged in discussions with certain members and committee staff about what a Weatherization modernization bill should and should not contain.

I appreciate all the policy input the Weatherization network provided NCAF. It is most helpful.

For this reauthorization there are no action items right now, unless our negotiations strategy changes, or becomes more complicated.

We will be sending a comprehensive energy memo to you very soon.

Our proposals have five broad goals:

1. Remove outdated provisions that bar this already-effective program from incorporating all cost effective measures in the bundle of upgrades offered;
2. Provide resources to test promising, but unproven, approaches;
3. Define, maintain and continue to promulgate the highest standards of workmanship;
4. Ensure skilled local agencies that are doing a good job of running this very complex program are the delivery system and that federal, state and local program performance are all measured and improved; and,
5. Authorize funding for five years or longer at a minimum level of $350 million.

Our Opioids Initiative

For nearly a year, members of Congress have been asking us questions concerning the CAA response to the opioid crisis. Through a series of roundtable discussions we held with the network, and phone conversations with other agencies, it quickly became obvious that many agencies are already involved in the crisis, and many more would be if they had the resources.

As is often the case, Representative Betty McCollum asked to take the lead on this initiative. I have been asked to secure two Republican sponsors.
For a number of years various interest and advocacy organizations have approached Congress asking why CSBG funds are reserved exclusively for the CAA network. Numerous groups have attempted to alter or open up our 90% pass-through provision to CAAs. One of the arguments occasionally used against our network is that we are “one of those heritage programs, who receive funding simply because it was started 50+ years ago”, and that there are a lot of newer, more exciting programs that can do things better or more effectively than the current CSBG network. They simply need access to federal funding. We certainly heard this argument in both the Clinton and Obama Administrations.

In response, when Congress identifies a need, crisis, or an opportunity that impact the low-income community, we need to participate on behalf of our network. Thus our opioid legislative proposal.

With this bill, one of three positive outcomes is possible. First, in the rush to respond to the opioid crisis Congress gives serious attention to our ideas and creates a new funding stream for some of our agencies. Second, Congress doesn’t consider our separate bill, but instead, its introduction and support helps grow the overall bi-partisan base of support for CSBG and CSBG funding. Finally, a CAA’s role is part of the policy debate and the awareness of our network within the Congress expands, setting the network up for future initiatives.

It is important to be seen in the eyes of legislators as a key component in any initiative addressing poverty in America.

I’ve attached our legislation and the documents we distribute with the draft bill. I think it reflects well on the strengths of the network. One final note - we may make the program bigger ($100 million per year, rather than $50 million).

Please review our initiative and let us know what you think. We will have an opioids panel with five House members at our conference. All of them are anxious to help expand the CAAs resources to respond to this horrific problem.

CAPPAC

One of our primary weapons in our advocacy toolkit is our national political involvement, primarily through CAPPAC. We have -by a good amount- the largest, most effective political action committee of any low income program. We are active with both Democrats and Republicans. We also do it with principles and values, and with the best judgement we can offer about whether a current member of Congress or candidate will be supportive of our programs and good for Congress and the nation!

For some reason, this year our CAPPAC contributions are significantly below projections. We can not achieve our full legislative agenda without full participation in the political process. If you are already a CAPPAC contributor, thank you! I hope you will continue with your support.

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If you have not contributed, I encourage you to please donate!

This is the year for our network, and especially NCAF, to be politically engaged. Who serves in the next Congress will go a long way in determining the future of not only our programs, but nearly all of the domestic agenda.

The NCAF 100

The 100 most important members in Congress on issues affecting ① CSBG, ② LIHEAP, ③ Headstart, and ④ Weatherization. A “??” means they are important, or gaining in importance, and that we are not yet sure which of our programs -if any- they may assist. The members of Congress will be listed in order of their state.

Two important notes; not every member can be considered a friend, but they are important. Secondly, this list could very easily have been 150 members or even higher. In reality most members are important. We want nearly every member to support Community Action.

Alabama

Representative Bradley Byrne (R - AL1)
- House Education & Workforce Committee
  ①, ②, ③

Representative Martha Roby (R - AL2)
- Labor-HHS Appropriations
  ①, ②, ③

Arkansas

Senator John Boozman (R)
- Appropriations Committee
- Budget Committee
  ①

Representative Steve Womack (R - AR3)
- Labor-HHS Appropriations
- Budget Committee chair
  ①, ②, ③

Alaska

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R)
- Chair Energy Committee
- Member HELP Committee
- Member Energy & Water Appropriations
  ①, ②, ③, ④

California

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D)
- Chair Energy & Water Appropriations
  ④
Senator Kamala Harris (R)
- Budget Committee
- Rising star

Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D - CA11)
- House Education & Workforce Committee
  - Sponsor CSBG Reauthorization

Representative Barbara Lee (D - CA13)
- Labor-HHS Appropriations

Representative Jim Costa (D - CA16)

Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D - CA40)
- Labor-HHS Appropriations

Representative Susan Davis (D - CA31)
- House Education & Workforce Committee

Connecticut

Senator Chris Murphy (D)
- HELP Committee
  - Appropriations Committee
    ①, ②, ③

Representative Joe Courtney (D - CT2)
- House Education & Workforce Committee
  ①, ②, ③

Representative Rosa DeLauro (D - CT3)
- Labor-HHS Appropriations
  ①, ②, ③

Delaware

Senator Chris Coons (D)
- Energy & Water Appropriations
  ④

Representative Lisa Rochester Blunt (D - DE1)
- House Education & Workforce Committee
  ??

Colorado

Senator Michael Bennet (D)
- HELP Committee
  ①, ②, ③

Representative Jared Polis (D - CO2)
- House Education & Workforce Committee
  ①, ②, ③

Georgia

Representative John Lewis (D - GA5)
  ①, ②, ③

Hawaii

Senator Brian Schatz (D)
- Appropriations Committee
- Rising star
Idaho

Representative Mike Simpson (D-ID2)
- Chair Energy & Water Appropriations

Illinois

Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL1)
- Energy Committee

Representative Cheri Bustos (D-IL17)
- Rising in influence

Indiana

Senator Todd Young (R)
- HELP Committee

Representative Todd Rokita (R-IN4)
- House Education & Workforce Committee

Representative Susan Brooks (R-IN5)
- Energy Committee

Representative Larry Bucshon (R-IN8)

Iowa

Representative Dave Loebsack (D-IA2)
- Energy Committee

Representative David Young (R-IA3)
- Appropriations Committee

Kentucky

Senator Rand Paul (R)
- HELP Committee

Representative Brett Guthrie (R-KY2)
- House Education & Workforce Committee

Representative John Yarmuth (D-KY3)
- Budget Committee

Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY5)
- Appropriations Committee

Louisiana

Senator Bill Cassidy (R)
- HELP Committee
- Energy Committee

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Representative Cedric Richmond (D-LA2)
- Rising star

Maine

Senator Susan Collins (R)
- Appropriations Committee
- HELP Committee
  ①, ②, ④

Senator Angus King (I)
- Energy Committee
  ④

Maryland

Senator Chris van Hollen (D)
  ①, ②, ③

Representative John Sarbanes (D-MD3)
- Energy Committee
  ④

Massachusetts

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D)
- HELP Committee
  ②, ③

Representative Joe Kennedy (D-MA4)
- Energy Committee
  ④

Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA5)
- Labor-HHS Appropriations
  ①, ②, ③

Michigan

Senator Debbie Stabenow (D)
- Budget Committee
  ①, ②

Representative John Moolenaar (R-MI4)
- Labor-HHS Appropriations
  ①

Representative Fred Upton (R-MI6)
- Energy Committee
  ④

Representative Paul Mitchell (R-MI10)
- House Education & Workforce Committee
  ??

Minnesota

Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN4)
- Appropriations Committee
  ①

Representative Tom Emmer (R-MN6)
  ①

Missouri

Senator Roy Blunt (R)
- Labor-HHS Appropriations
  ①, ②, ③
Montana

Senator Jon Tester (D)
- Appropriations Committee

New Hampshire

Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D)
- Appropriations Committee
  ①, ②, ④

Senator Maggie Hassan (D)
- HELP Committee
  ①, ②, ③

New Jersey

Senator Cory Booker (D)
- Appropriations Committee
  ??

Representative Donald Norcross (R - NJ1)
- House Education & Workforce Committee
  ①, ②, ③

Representative Tom MacArthur (R-NJ3)
  ①

Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ6)
- Energy Committee
  ④

New Mexico

Senator Tom Udall (D)
- Appropriations Committee
  ④

Senator Martin Heinrich (D)
- Energy Committee
  ④

Representative Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM3)
- Energy Committee
  ④

New York

Representative Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY8)
- Budget Committee
  ??

Representative Joe Crowley (D-NY14)
  ??

Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY20)
- Energy Committee
  ④

Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY21)
- House Education & Workforce Committee
  ①, ②

Representative Claudia Tenney (R-NY22)
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Representative Tom Reed (R-NY23)
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North Carolina

Senator Richard Burr (R)  
- HELP Committee
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Representative G.K. Butterfield (D-NC1)  
- Energy Committee
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Representative Virginia Foxx (R - NC5)  
- House Education & Workforce Committee
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Representative Alma Adams (D - NC12)  
- House Education & Workforce Committee
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North Dakota

Senator John Hoeven (R)  
- Appropriations Committee
  ④

Representative Kevin Cramer (D-ND1)  
- Energy Committee
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Ohio

Senator Sherrod Brown (D)  
①

Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH9)  
- Appropriations Committee
  ④

Representative Marcia Fudge (D - OH11)  
- House Education & Workforce Committee
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Representative Dave Joyce (R-OH14)  
- Appropriations Committee
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Representative Steve Stivers (R-OH15)  
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Oklahoma

Representative Tom Cole (D - OK4)  
- Appropriations Committee
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Oregon

Senator Jeff Merkley (D)  
- Appropriations Committee
  ①, ④

Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR1)  
- House Education & Workforce Committee
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Pennsylvania

Senior Bob Casey (D)
- HELP Committee
  ①, ②

Representative Mike Kelly (R-PA3)
  ①

Representative Glenn Thompson (R-PA5)
- House Education & Workforce Committee
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Representative Ryan Costello (R-PA6)
- Energy Committee
  ④

Representative Lou Barletta (R-PA11)
- House Education & Workforce Committee
  ①

South Carolina

Senior Tim Scott (R)
- HELP Committee
  ??

Tennessee

Senior Lamar Alexander (R)
- Appropriations Committee
- HELP Committee
- Energy Committee
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Representative Phil Roe (R-TN1)
- House Education & Workforce Committee
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Vermont

Senior Patrick Leahy (D)
- Appropriations Committee
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Senior Bernie Sanders (I)
- HELP Committee
- Energy Committee
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Virginia

Senior Tim Kaine (D)
- HELP Committee

Representative Bobby Scott (R-VA3)
- House Education & Workforce Committee
Washington

Senator Patty Murray (D)
- Appropriations Committee
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Senator Maria Cantwell (D)
- Energy Committee
  ④

Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA3)
- Appropriations Committee
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West Virginia

Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R)
- Appropriations Committee
  ①, ②

Representative David McKinley (R-WV1)
- Energy Committee
  ④

Wisconsin

Senator Tammy Baldwin (D)
- Appropriations Committee
- HELP Committee
  ①, ②, ③
## Action Items

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>FY2018 Appropriations - Labor HHS</td>
<td>Rep. Jim Costa will be circulating a CSBG “Dear Colleague” appropriations letter to Cole and DeLauro. We are asking for $750 million for CSBG. The letter will be circulated when Congress returns next week for its President Holiday recess. We will let you know when it is released. ASK YOUR MEMBER TO SIGN. WE ESPECIALLY NEED REPUBLICAN SIGNATURES.</td>
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| 2 | FY2018 Appropriations - Labor HHS     | A number of House Republicans vocally supported CSBG funding during the appropriations process. I’ve circled back and asked a number of them to contact Labor-HHS chairman Cole and ask for $750 million. It is important to remember that Chairman Cole has expressed support for restoring any cuts in CSBG funding throughout the process. Amongst those I have contacted and asked to speak with Cole are:  
- Representative David Joyce (R-OH)  
- Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY)  
- Representative Claudia Tenney (R-NY)  
- Representative Charlie Dent (R-PA)  
- Representative David Young (R-IA)  
- Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY)  
If one of the Republicans listed is your member, please let them know we appreciate their commitment to higher CSBG funding. Contact them in the district or when they are back in Washington. They need to hear from their constituents that you recognize they are advocating for your agency. All of these members are extremely important in determining our success. With the exception of Tenney and Stefanik, all four are key |
members of the appropriations committee.

It is worth noting that we are not alone in asking for increases. Thousands of lobbyists representing hundreds of programs and special interests are bombarding the Congress with similar requests.

Thanking the six key Republicans listed, letting Chairman Cole know that his district supports CSBG funding, and asking your Republican House members to sign on to the Costa CSBG funding letter is key. Remember, don’t ask until we give the green light; which will probably be the middle of this week.

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<td>3</td>
<td>FY2018 Appropriations</td>
<td>If one of the Senators listed above is from your state, they are an important part of our strategy. Call us, let’s talk and figure out the best approach to secure their leadership.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>FY2019 Budget</td>
<td>However you answered the previous questions and whatever you prepare; share it with NCAF. We need better information on what you do, who benefits and what the consequences would be if any of our core programs faces serious cuts or elimination.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>CSBG Reauthorization</td>
<td>Upon introduction please help us secure your member as a cosponsor! Last Congress we were able to garner 120 cosponsors on the CSBG reauthorization bill. Forty six percent of them were Republicans!</td>
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