



CAP-FACTS

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Consistent, Steady, Responsible Growth

This morning, the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee marked up its FY 2009 bill. The Subcommittee approved a **\$46 million** increase for CSBG, to bring the program to **\$700 million** for FY 2009.

This increase is yet another consistent step on the path of growing the CSBG program while maintaining fiscal responsibility in these complex budgetary times.

The vast majority of the credit for this good news goes to full Appropriations Committee and Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chairman David Obey. CSBG and Community Action remain a high priority for the Chairman. In a future CAP-FACTS, we will enlist your help in thanking our supporters and informing Chairman Obey of your plans for this important increase.

We also continue to have strong support on both sides of the aisle on the House Appropriations Committee, as well as on the Senate Committee. Senate Labor-HHS Chairman Harkin is an unwavering champion of CSBG and the Community Action network, and we anticipate good news from his markup next week. It should be noted that his Subcommittee budget is tight; we have been told it has \$1 billion less to spend than its House counterpart.

Other core programs of Community Action are also in good shape. We have strong allies, including the Chairs, among the Committee membership for our appropriations. The Subcommittee rejected the President's proposed 22% cut in LIHEAP, and increased the program by \$200 million over the FY 2008 level. Head Start is funded at \$1.7 billion, an increase over last year's level and the President's request. Cuts in SSBG and WIA were also rejected and the programs are funded at current levels.

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The House Appropriations full Committee markup is scheduled for June 25. The Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee markup is June 24, with full Committee markup to follow on June 26. After that, the schedule is uncertain. We have been told that a number of appropriations bills will be scheduled for floor action in July, yet then we hear that few, if any, bills will be brought to the floor.

What does seem likely is that the CSBG increase will not be finalized for some time, perhaps early next year. A long-term continuing resolution until the next Administration and Congress are in place appears all but certain. In the meantime, we should be encouraged by the consistent support of our Appropriations allies.