

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 24, 1999

The Speaker of the

House of Representatives

Sir:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 105-277, the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, I hereby request and make available appropriations of \$20,000,000 in budget authority for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grants Program. These funds will enable the Department to support disaster recovery needs in California, Maine, and Texas.

I designate the amount made available as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with her comments and observations.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of William J. Clinton in black ink.

Enclosure



DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

August 24, 1999

The President

The White House

Submitted for your consideration is a request to make available emergency appropriations for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Your approval of this request would make available previously appropriated funds to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to address unmet disaster recovery needs.

Public Law 105-277, the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, enacted in October 1998, provided \$250 million for CDBG contingent upon the President submitting a budget request to the Congress and designating the entire amount requested as an emergency requirement. The funds were to be used for disaster relief, long-term recovery, and mitigation related to Presidentially-declared natural disasters designated in FYs 1998 and 1999, except for those activities reimbursable by, or for which funds are made available by, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, or the Corps of Engineers. Public Law 106-31, the 1999 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, enacted in May 1999, included a provision that rescinded \$230 million of the amount provided for CDBG in Public Law 105-277.

This request would make the remaining \$20 million in contingent emergency funding available to HUD to cover disaster needs not addressed by other Federal programs. Unmet needs related to Presidentially-declared natural disasters have been identified in California, Maine, and Texas. These disasters include a series of El Nino-related storms in California in February of 1998; ice storms in Maine in January 1998; and, Tropical Storm Charley in Texas in August 1998.

I recommend that you designate the \$20 million as an emergency funding requirement in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. No further congressional action will be required.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in recommending that you make the requested funds available by signing the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvia M. Mathews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "M".

Sylvia M. Mathews  
Deputy Director

Enclosure

**EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS: AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED  
MADE AVAILABLE BY THE PRESIDENT**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Community development block grants..... \$20,000,000

Public Law 105-277, the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, provided \$250 million for the Community Development Block Grant program contingent upon the President submitting a budget request to the Congress and designating the entire amount requested as an emergency requirement. Subsequently, Public Law 106-31, the 1999 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, included a provision that rescinded \$230 million of this amount.

The remaining \$20 million in contingent emergency funding is now required to support disaster recovery needs not addressed by other Federal programs. Unmet needs related to Presidentially-declared natural disasters have been identified in California, Maine, and Texas.