

Appropriations: Clear Differences

How 2 Months Spending In Iraq Could be Put to Better Use

Example 6: Block Grants - Helping States and Communities Alleviate Poverty and Promote Economic Development

\$2.1 billion = 1 Week in Iraq

WASHINGTON – Yesterday, the President sent Congress the rest of his nearly \$200 billion request covering the [\\$10 billion](#) a month we are spending in Iraq (paid for with borrowed money), even as he is trying to masquerade as fiscally responsible by manufacturing a fight over \$22 billion (roughly 2 months in Iraq) in investments that will make this a stronger and better country.

What would that \$22 billion achieve? Every day we're going to bring you one specific example of how Congress and the President differ on appropriations.

Example 6: Block Grants: Alleviating Poverty and Promoting Economic Development **\$2.1 billion above the President's Request = The cost of one week in Iraq**

How do we best address poverty and economic development needs in diverse communities across the country?

Sometimes one-size-fits-all programs aren't enough to do the trick. To fill the gaps, Congress created block grants that would give states and local governments the resources and flexibility to meet their most pressing needs.

Community Service Block Grants help states meet the needs of low-income individuals through services such as adult education, housing assistance, nutrition programs, emergency services, employment aid and health services. CSBG services and activities are provided to over 95% of all U.S. counties.

Social Services Block Grants help each state provide social services that best meet the needs of their residents, including: child care, protective services, help for the disabled, adoption, counseling, transportation, foster care, substance abuse, congregate meals, employment services and other critical services for low-income families.

Community Development Block Grants help 1,180 state and local governments address community development needs, such as affordable housing, supportive services, and expanded economic opportunities. More than 95% of the total funding principally benefits low and moderate-income persons.

The President's Budget slashed these programs by \$1.85 billion, it:

- Eliminates funding for Community Service Block Grants (\$630 million);
- Cuts Social Services Block Grants by \$500 million; and
- Cuts funding for Community Development Block Grants by \$735 million.

The House Bill rejected those cuts, investing **\$2.1 billion above the President, roughly one week in Iraq**, including:

- \$660 million more than the President's request for Community Services Block Grants;
- \$500 million more than the President's request for Social Services Block Grants, simply maintaining last year's level; and
- \$963 million more than the President's request for Community Development Block Grants, an amount still \$400 million below the 2001 funding level for this program.

The differences couldn't be clearer.

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