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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
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Clarence E. Anthony

December 13, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman DeLauro, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger,

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the nation's foremost non-partisan network of municipal governments and their leaders, representing all of America's 19,000 cities, towns and villages. We are grateful for your outstanding and ongoing support for local governments through both emergency and annual appropriations. We write in support of your efforts to prevent a federal government shutdown for any reason and to encourage support for a FY2023 omnibus appropriations bill that better addresses existing issues and priorities within cities and towns compared to a long-term continuing resolution.

As the FY2023 appropriations are finalized, we urge consideration to include the following program priorities important to cities and towns:

- The bipartisan State, Local Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act, also called ARPA Flex, (S. 3011/H.R. 5735) should be included in the FY2023 spending package so that it can be signed into law. This legislation, approved by unanimous consent in the Senate on October 19, 2021, would permit the U.S. Department of the Treasury to use additional available administrative funds to restore high levels of Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program support principally sought by small and rural local governments. It would also allow Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to be used to provide "emergency relief from natural disasters or the negative economic impacts of natural disasters, including temporary emergency housing, food assistance, financial assistance for lost wages, or other immediate needs."
- NLC is also supporting the addition of the Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students (JOBS) Act, which would better support students by making high-quality, shorter-term education and training programs eligible for federal Pell Grants; reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program; reauthorization and funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program into the FY2023 spending package; and the permanent authorization of the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program as proposed in the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act (S. 2471).

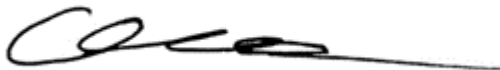
NLC is also recommending priority funding for the following programs important to cities and towns:

- \$100 million for the newly enacted RECOMPETE Pilot Program authorized under the CHIPS and Science Act. This is a new program that would not appear in a Continuing Resolution.
- \$4.2 billion for the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), which would provide full funding at the currently authorized level.

- Full funding for the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (Section 8 rental subsidy program) to renew all existing contracts and expand housing vouchers to an additional 140,000 households.
- \$3.6 billion for HUD’s Homeless Assistance Grants program to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- Funding for water infrastructure grant programs which were authorized but not funded in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These include sewer overflow and stormwater management, lead pipe replacement, water resiliency and sustainability to protect and reduce risk to extreme weather events, source water protection and alternative water sources, new and emerging technologies for cybersecurity improvements and water efficiency, and water infrastructure workforce development, among others. Some of these are new programs, which would not appear in a continuing resolution.
- Increased funding for Department of Justice violence prevention programs and to recruit and retain a diverse public safety workforce.
- Funding for the ReConnect Program, Community Connect Program and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.
- Up to \$500 million for the Economic Development Administration, of which approximately \$40 million should be allocated for EDA Partnership Planning Grants.
- Inclusion of the Advanced Aviation Infrastructure Modernization Act with \$25 million in grants to plan and prepare for new aviation opportunities regionally.

Thank you for considering our recommendations for FY2023 federal appropriations to help local governments and the residents they serve. If NLC can be of further help, please contact Irma Esparza Diggs, NLC Senior Executive and Director of Federal Advocacy, at 202-626-3176 or diggs@nlc.org.

Sincerely,



Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities