



# **COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

*Helping People - Changing Lives*



**María Y. Juárez, CCAP**  
Executive Director

March 1, 2011

## **PROGRAMS**

### **ENERGY**

Utility Assistance  
(951) 955-6448  
(951) 955-6478  
(800) 999-5584

Weatherization  
(951) 955-6418

### **DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER**

Mediation  
Arbitration  
(951) 955-4903

### **ASSET BUILDING**

RivCo Individual  
Development Accounts  
Earned Income Tax Credit  
(951) 955-3571

Project B.L.I.S.S.  
(Circles™)  
(951) 955-3216

### **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Pre-Apprenticeship  
Project L.E.A.D.  
(951) 955-4901

### **PLANNING**

Research & Development  
Community Action Academy  
(951) 955-6493

### **FISCAL**

(951) 955-6461

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

(951) 955-6369

### **FIELD OFFICES**

Blythe  
(760) 921-5080  
Indio  
(760) 863-7246  
Hemet  
(951) 791-3567

Dear Community Action Academy Partners and Attendees,

In his budget for fiscal year 2012, President Obama cut Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) by 50% and proposed doing away with the state formula based funding which guarantees equitable funding for Community Action programs. Community Action Partnership of Riverside County (CAP Riverside) uses CSBG funds to provide the critical support for many programs and services that provide economic opportunities for the poor in Riverside County. The impact that this type of reduction in funding will have on low-income families is devastating. Locally low-income families would face shrinking access to critical programs such as those outlined on the attached document -Impact of CSBG and Cuts and Loss of CAA Status.

Your assistance is needed to help show legislators that Community Action programs are critical to our local economic well being. Please submit a letter of support to your legislators. Send the message that now is not the time to sacrifice programs that are needed by our most vulnerable citizens. Attached is a template you can use to personalize your letter.

Thank you for taking time to share with your legislators the implications of President Obama's funding cuts to our community.

Sincerely,

Community Action Commission

Attachments: Impact of CSBG Cuts  
Template Community Support Letter  
Elected Official Contact List

## Template – Community Support Letter

Date

Elected Official

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

In his budget for FY 2010, President Obama cut funding for Community Action programs by 50% and did away with the State formula-based funding which guarantees equitable funding for Community Action programs.

Community Action programs create sustainable pathways out of poverty by providing economic opportunities for Americans to achieve permanent self-sufficiency. Our local Community Action program, Community Action Partnership of Riverside County (CAP Riverside) addresses a broad range of issues faced by our most vulnerable residents.

***...Insert Your Personal Message...***

I want President Obama to know that these programs are critical to moving families out of poverty. I urge President Obama to reconsider his funding cuts for local Community Action programs; these programs are working, are cost effective and efficient.

Sincerely,

Your Name

## UNITED STATES SENATORS

Sen. Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-3841  
Fax: (202) 228-3954  
<http://feinstein.senate.gov/>

Sen. Barbara Boxer  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-3553  
<http://boxer.senate.gov/>

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Rep. Ken Calvert  
44<sup>th</sup> District  
2269 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-1986  
Fax: (202) 225-2004  
<http://calvert.house.gov/>

Rep. Mary Bono Mack  
45<sup>th</sup> District  
104 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5330  
Fax: (202) 225-2961  
<http://bono.house.gov/>

Rep. Jerry Lewis  
41<sup>st</sup> District  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5861  
Fax: (202) 225-6498  
<http://jerrylewis.house.gov/>

Rep. Darrell Issa  
49<sup>th</sup> District  
2347 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-3906  
Fax: (202) 225-3303  
<http://issa.house.gov/>



# COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

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**María Y. Juárez, CCAP**  
Executive Director

## Impact of CSBG CUTS and Loss of CAA status

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(951) 791-3567

Community Action Partnership of Riverside County (CAP Riverside)  
Service Territory: Riverside County, California  
Jenice Haskin, Chair, Riverside County Community Action Commission  
(951) 697-4719 [jenice.haskin@uwiv.org](mailto:jenice.haskin@uwiv.org)

Maria Y. Juarez, CCAP, Executive Director, CAP Riverside  
(951) 955-4900 [mjuarez@capriverside.org](mailto:mjuarez@capriverside.org)

The President's Budget Request for FY 2010 includes changes in funding for Community Action which will reduce the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) by 50% and allow the remaining funding to move to other counties or organizations.

Community Action Partnership of Riverside County (CAP Riverside) serves the fourth largest county in California. CAP Riverside provides critical services and referrals annually to over 232,183 individuals. That includes 71,977 families with young children and over 140,000 seniors and disabled residents. CAP Riverside has seen over a 700% increase in demand for services since the economic crisis of 2008.

In response to requests from the community leaders who direct CAP Riverside, this analysis forecasts the effect the reduction of CSBG funding would have on our services to the residents of Riverside County and on our investments in expanding economic opportunities for all. The consequences would be as follows:

- An average of \$18 leveraged annually for every \$1 of CSBG funds received in cash and non-cash support from federal, state, local, and private partners will be lost.
- An average of \$3.5 million in new home purchases will be lost annually due to reductions in asset/wealth building strategies supported by CSBG.
- Over \$2.7 million in tax refunds being brought into the county annually will be lost due to the closure of over 14 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites that provide free tax preparation to over 2,200 low-wage workers, retirees, and their families. CSBG funds and staff support this initiative.
- Over 16,000 elderly, disabled residents, and families with very young children annually will be vulnerable to severe hot or cold weather health threats due to closure of over 50 Cool and Warm Centers coordinated and supported by CSBG staff and funds.
- Over 3,500 residents will lose support (shelter, clothing, food, etc.) annually from CSBG funded disaster relief services during natural disasters such as wild fires, floods and severe rain.

- Free and subsidized medical and dental care will be eliminated annually for over 5,000 economically disadvantaged residents, including children. CSBG funds support medical staff, supplies, and prescription drugs.
- Over 450 organizations, of which 158 (35%) are faith-based, will lose support and leveraging opportunities to provide economic opportunities and stability to low-wage workers, retirees, and their families. CSBG staff and funds support capacity building training and technical assistance, grants, meeting space, local data repository, disaster supplies for victims, small office equipment such as fax/printers, food support supplies for families, and financial literacy materials and training for constituents.
- Over 50,000 community volunteer hours, valued at over \$1 million will be lost annually thus reducing and/or eliminating a variety of CSBG supported services.
- Over 125 small businesses annually will lose access to coaching/ technical assistance for establishing revenue generating and job creating/sustaining businesses.
- Over 25 small businesses annually will lose staff and 25 high school youth will lose access to job skills development opportunities through the loss of a pre-apprenticeship youth job preparation initiative funded by CSBG.
- Over 20 new in-home child care businesses would be lost each year without CSBG funds to help pay for training, licensing and licensing requirements in a county where over 207,000 children go unserved.
- 3 School Districts will lose over 25 trained volunteer mentors and tutors each year for after school initiatives that annually serve over 9,600 youth. CSBG staff and funds support recruitment, screening, training, and supervision of volunteers. School districts will be unable to assume the cost resulting in increased public safety costs and increased drop-out rates.
- Over 85 volunteer mediators trained and supervised by CSBG staff and funding, who mediate over 2,000 cases annually will be eliminated passing on increased court litigation costs to taxpayers.
- Over 25,000 struggling families will lose access to food with the loss of CSBG support. CSBG funds and staff are used to provide food security through recruitment of partners and coordination of resources and food support supplies.
- There will be no new innovative projects designed to meet local emerging needs without CSBG staff and funds. Successful innovative responses to local needs include:
  - Access to Assets - - an initiative that trains welfare participants as tax preparers and helps them open their own tax preparation business.
  - Food Security Project - - an outreach strategy that helps isolated rural seniors and/or disabled residents, veterans, and low-wage workers and their families achieve a healthy living lifestyle and increased food resources.
  - GREEN TEAMWorks - - a green on-the-job training program that partners vulnerable foster youth who have aged out of the system with weatherization sub-contractors. Youth are trained and certified as weatherization technicians and placed in permanent employment upon graduation. The first phase had a 57% graduation/permanent job placement rate.
  - Incubation of new agencies - - CSBG staff and funds have supported the start-up efforts of numerous grass-roots service organizations. For every \$1 in CSBG funds invested in these community initiatives, \$295 has been realized as a Return on Investment (ROI) in new non-CSBG funding.