



Press Release

George Mensah, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development for the City of Miami, FL Testifies at House Hearing on CDBG

Washington, DC - George Mensah, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development for the City of Miami, FL on June 16, 2021, testified on behalf of the National Community Development Association (NCDCA) at a virtual hearing before the House Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance on the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

The hearing, "Flexible Federal Funding: Examining the Community Development Block Grant Program and its Impact on Addressing Local Challenges," led by Subcommittee Chairman Emanuel Cleaver II (D-MO), brought together a panel of experts to discuss the role CDBG plays in addressing affordable housing, public services, infrastructure, and other local needs.

Chairman Cleaver acknowledged the importance of the program in his opening remarks by saying "CDBG is an instrumental piece of [local] community development efforts and, in many cases, CDBG funds are combined with other sources of funding and are the difference in whether a community development project moves forward."

Mr. Mensah testified on the recommendations developed by the NCDCA CDBG Racial Equity Working Group to improve the program which include the reauthorization of the program at a significant funding level (\$12 billion) and program flexibilities for grantees in spending funds on new construction of housing, public services, fair housing, and nonprofit capacity.

The hearing can be viewed [here](#) and Mr. Mensah's testimony can viewed [here](#).

