

Talking Points on the
COMMUNITY BUILDING CODE ADMINISTRATION GRANT ACT

110th Congress – H.R. 4461 and S. 2458

- The Community Building Code Administration Grant Act, when enacted and funded, will provide grant funding to governments code enforcement offices to start or boost the capacity of local building code administration offices.
- The CBCAG Act creates a program that will provide competitively evaluated federal grants, locally matched, directly to local code enforcement offices.
- The CBCAG will be a funding source solely dedicated to supporting building and fire code enforcement. A request for CBCAG funding will not diminish a jurisdiction's eligibility for or receipt of funding from other federal grant sources.
- The CBCAG Act recognizes that code adoption and enforcement is a local and state function. As a federally funded grant program supporting state and local government, the CBCAG also benefits federal taxpayers by reducing federal costs in post-disaster response in federally declared disasters.
- The recent hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005, the flooding in 2006, and the tornado and wildfire seasons of 2006 and 2007, clearly demonstrate our nation's on-going vulnerability to natural hazards and the profound national costs incurred as a result of regional and local natural disasters.
- The use of contemporary nationally recognized building codes, when effectively enforced by state and local building and fire code officials, is one of the best means of protecting Americans from natural and man-made disasters that impact our homes, businesses, schools, places of worship, and all other types of construction in the built-environment.
- CBCAG funds could be used for capital needs such as computers and vehicles, as well as for training and professional certification for code enforcement offices.
- Matching requirements are scaled to local conditions, and can be waived for areas in economic distress. In-kind contributions can be included in the local match.
- CBCAG funding will promote the rapid development of effective, self-sustaining local code enforcement programs. To further promote program sustainability, the Act allows waiver of the local match for jurisdictions that dedicate building permit income to local code enforcement.
- The federal benefit occurs through reduction of future costs in federal natural disaster response, community and personal recovery and damage compensation:
 - Analysis of the effect of mitigation grants on the federal treasury found that *for every dollar spent from the federal treasury on FEMA mitigation grants, there is a savings of \$3.65 in post-disaster relief costs and increased federal tax revenues.* (NIBS Report of the Multihazard Mitigation Council released in late 2005)
 - Analysis of the communities receiving these FEMA grants found that the grants are federally cost-effective; *often leading to additional non-federally funded mitigation activities* and have the greatest benefits in communities that have institutionalized hazard mitigation programs.
- The CBCAG would be administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.