

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced \$1,228,541 for the City of Rome, \$2,989,883 for the City of Utica and \$1,100,342 for the City of Auburn through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) 2007 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

"These grants allow local governments to provide critical services for the most needy in our communities as well as help boost economic development and infrastructure maintenance," said Arcuri, who is helping to lead an effort in Congress to restore funding for the CDBG program in the fiscal year 2008 budget process.

"We would like to thank Congressman Arcuri and all his efforts on behalf of the City of Auburn in helping us secure this funding," said Christopher DeProspero, Planning and Economic Development Program Manager for the City of Auburn. "The Community Development Block Grant Program is very important for the City and plays a vital role in our Community. The funding allows for assistance in home repair, public infrastructure improvements, support services, economic development and is a big part in providing funding for the redevelopment of our Downtown."

The CDBG program nationwide was funded at \$4.41 billion in fiscal year 2001. Since then, the CDBG formula allocation has decreased by \$670 million – or approximately 15% - with a five percent cut in fiscal year 2005 and a 10 percent cut in fiscal year 2006. In addition, the Administration's fiscal year 2008 budget proposal would reduce CDBG funding by another 20%, cutting the formula allocation by almost 35% in just five years.

"Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has continually slashed funding for the CDBG program every year since 2001," Arcuri said. "I am committed to restoring funding to CDBG to help meet the needs of low- and moderate-income communities"

New York's 24th Congressional District includes three CDBG entitlement communities (Utica, Rome and Auburn) that receive annual grants for the purpose of providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities principally for low-and moderate – income residents.

"Because of cuts to the CDBG formula allocation, programs and projects funded by CDBG, like

those in Utica, Rome and Auburn, have been cut too,” Arcuri said. “How can we expect our communities to provide quality housing and strengthen the economy when they’re receiving less and less financial resources each year? I strongly support reigning in spending, but the CDBG program has proven to be a key ingredient in improving the quality of life for our area.”

The following table shows cuts in CDBG funding awards for Utica, Rome and Auburn since 2003:

City	FY07	FY06	FY05	FY04	FY03
Utica	\$2,989,883	\$2,998,315	\$3,352,529	\$3,550,000	\$3,617,000
Rome	\$1,228,541	\$1,230,656	\$1,374,873	\$1,456,000	\$1,482,000
Auburn	\$1,100,342	\$1,101,048	\$1,225,163	\$1,296,000	\$1,311,000

HUD awards CDBG grants to entitlement community grantees to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development, and providing improved community facilities and services.

Entitlement communities develop their own programs and funding priorities. However, grantees must give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low- and moderate-income persons. A grantee may also carry out activities which aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. Additionally, grantees may fund activities when the grantee certifies that the activities meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. CDBG funds may not be used for activities which do not meet these broad national objectives.

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