

NCDA Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes
2000 NCDA Winter Meeting
Washington, D.C.
January 27, 2000

Richard Kennedy, HUD Director of Block Grant Assistance, discussed several items of interest to committee members. He emphasized the importance of the timely expenditure of CDBG funds since Congress has looked at unspent CDBG funds as a source for making up budget shortfalls. Chandra Western mentioned that NCDA has been asked to take part in the planned workshops HUD will hold this year on timely expenditures. Mr. Kennedy mentioned that it was important for grantees to complete on a timely basis all fields in IDIS reports so that information can be provided to Congress.

He also noted that the anti-pirating and brownfields rules were due out within the next several months. He encouraged grantees to include in the CAPER activities they've done to affirmatively further fair housing. Lastly, he discussed the implications for CPD programs of the possible change in the Census definition of metropolitan area. The NCDA Board of Directors has appointed a committee to look into this issue and to propose a policy statement on behalf of the Association.

Chandra Western, NCDA executive director, reported that not much was being released about next year's federal budget. Rumors floating around put CDBG at \$4.9 billion with HOME funding remaining the same at \$1.6 billion. ***[The current information is that CDBG will be requested at \$4.9 billion and the HOME program will be requested at \$1.65 billion]***

There was a brief discussion about seeking legislation to establish a minimum CDBG formula allocation or a percentage cap on CDBG set-asides. The consensus of the members was to do neither but instead advocate for increased funding for grantee allocations based on the merits of the CDBG program and the benefits that accrue to low and moderate income people from the program's activities. Chandra Western said that this is very helpful in our advocacy efforts for the program. Too long the Association has had no definitive position on this issue.

Amintha Cinnotti, Acting Co-chair of the membership/professional development committee, outlined a proposal for CD practitioner certification. Earlier in the conference, NCDA's board of directors approved the convening of a committee to prepare such a proposal for consideration at the annual conference beginning May 31, 2000 in New Orleans.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Hoover, Co-Chair
Community Development Committee