



DATE: April 30, 2014

John Sasso National CD Week Award Submissions Due on May 23, 2014
NCDA Annual Conference Hotel Registration Deadline is May 26, 2014
HOME Basics Training - May 28-30, 2014 - Champaign, IL
Advanced CDBG Training - June 9-10, 2014 - Murfreesboro, TN
2014 NCDA Annual Conference - June 24-28, 2014 - Franklin County, OH

FEATURED ARTICLES

- ✓ ***Appropriations Update***
- ✓ ***Congress Works on Extending Some Tax Credits***
- ✓ ***Highway Trust Fund Running Out of Money***
- ✓ ***USCM Announces New CDBG Website***
- ✓ ***HUD NEWS - Acting Assistant Secretary for CPD, Mark Johnston, Set to Retire; IDIS Training Available; HUD Launches New eCon Planning Suite Resources; FY2013-2014 Continuum of Care Awards Announced***
- ✓ ***NCDA NEWS - Communities Across the Country Celebrate National Community Development Week; John A. Sasso National Community Development Week Award Submission Information; Upcoming NCDA Training; 2014 Annual Conference - Franklin County, OH***
- ✓ ***OTHER NEWS - Treasury Creating Office of State and Local Finance***

Appropriations Update

Optimism has dimmed about getting all twelve appropriations bills cleared by October 1, the start of the new fiscal year, a feat last achieved 20 years ago. But thanks to the agreement on the \$1.014 trillion spending reached late last year, there is hope that at least a handful of the measures will be passed before November.

The House will pass its first two FY 2015 bills this week; \$71.5 billion for military construction and veterans programs, and \$3.3 billion for the legislative branch. The House will tackle the Commerce-Justice-State spending bill next week followed by the Transportation-HUD bill. House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers (R-KY) wants to get all of the spending bills through the House before the August recess. Across the Capitol, Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) has been promised two weeks of floor time in June and two more in July so she can push Senate passage of some stand-alone bills for the first time in

three years.

NCDA and the CDBG Coalition worked with Congressional members on “Dear Colleague” letters to House and Senate appropriations leaders seeking \$3.3 billion in funding for CDBG in FY15. The House letter was led by Reps. Robert Brady (D-PA), Lou Barletta (R-PA), James McGovern (D-MA), Peter King (R-NY), Chaka Fattah (D-PA), and Chris Gibson (R-NY). The Senate letter was led by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

The CDBG Coalition also sent a separate support letter for both CDBG and HOME to every member of the House and Senate Transportation-HUD subcommittee, followed up by meetings.

The letters are available on the NCDA website at www.ncdaonline.org.

Congress Works to Extend Some Tax Credits

Earlier this month, the Senate Finance Committee approved a two-year extension of temporary tax breaks that expired at the end of 2013. S. 2260 - Expiring Provisions Improvement Reform and Efficiency (EXPIRE) Act - contains about 50 provisions affecting small businesses, families and individuals, including the following credits.

- 9% Credit Rate Freeze for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program

The low-income housing tax credit provides a tax credit over a period of ten years once a housing facility is placed in service.

- New Markets Tax Credit

Through the New Markets Tax Credit, the federal government is able to leverage federal tax credits to encourage private investment in businesses in low-income communities. The program provides a 39 percent tax credit spread over 7 years. The bill extends the NMTC for two years permitting a maximum annual amount of qualified equity investments of \$3.5 billion.

- Work Opportunity Tax Credit

The bill extends the provision that allows businesses to claim a work opportunity tax credit equal to 40 percent of the first \$6,000 of wages paid to new hires of one of eight targeted groups. These groups include members of families receiving benefits under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), program qualified veterans (including those that are unemployed, disabled, or receiving TANF, qualified ex-felons, designated community residents, vocational rehabilitation referrals, qualified summer youth employees, qualified food and nutrition recipients, qualified SSI recipients, and long-term family assistance recipients.

- Research and experimentation tax credit

The bill extends for two years, through 2015, the 20 percent traditional research tax credit and the 14 percent alternative simplified tax credit.

- Deduction for State and Local General Sales Taxes

The bill extends the election to take an itemized deduction for State and local general sales taxes in lieu of the itemized deduction permitted for state and local income taxes for two years.

- Credit for construction of new energy efficient homes

The bill extends the credit for the construction of energy-efficient new homes that achieve a 30% or 50% reduction in heating and cooling energy consumption relative to a comparable dwelling constructed within the standards of the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code.

On Tuesday, April 29, the House Ways and Means Committee approved the permanent extension of six corporate tax credits; the measure kills roughly two-thirds of the 50 incentives that expired at the end of last year, including all of those mentioned above. Extending the six corporate tax credits would cost around \$310 billion over ten years, with half of the cost going to the renewal of the federal research and development tax credit that expands the tax break from 14 percent to 20 percent for qualifying business expenses

Both the House and Senate need to approve their respective measures, but with members of both chambers increasingly occupied with getting re-elected in November, meaningful tax policy may not come anytime soon.

Highway Trust Fund Running Out of Money

The next big government bailout could come in the form of making the Highway Trust Fund solvent. The Highway Trust Fund could run out of money as early as August, according to some sources. President Obama is entering the fight to save the Highway Trust Fund by sending Congress a \$302 billion MAP-21 reauthorization proposal called the “Grow America Act” that would provide funding for the nation’s infrastructure. The proposal would extend federal road and transit funding that is set to expire in September for the next four years. Obama would pay for the transportation spending by generating nearly \$150 billion in revenue through corporate tax reform.

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, which oversees transportation authorization in the Senate, plans to release a bill next week that would authorize highway, transit, and bridge funding for six-years at current levels along with a small inflationary budget increase each year. The House has not put forward any measures yet to deal with the issue.

The traditional source for infrastructure funding has been the 18.4 cent per gallon gas tax, but the tax has not been increased since 1993 nor indexed to inflation, and receipts are now being outpaced by transportation expenses. Congress is grappling with how to close the funding shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund which is expected to reach as high as \$20 billion soon.

Given that the House and Senate can’t agree on anything, we will likely see some sort of short-term fix for the trust fund such as one year of funding so that Congress can take up the issue next year in hopes of pushing a long-term authorization and funding bill through both chambers.

USCM Announces New CDBG Website

On April 2, the U.S. Conference of Mayors announced the creation of a CDBG website which will allow cities across the country to have their own individual CDBG city profiles to demonstrate the impact of CDBG on their community. The website is available at <http://cdbg.mayors.org>. The project is being led by Newton (MA) Mayor Setti Warren, Chair of USCM's Community Development and Housing Committee. The site will serve as a repository of best practices and vital information about CDBG.

In order to create and manage your CDBG city page, you must register on the website. The registration page is located at <http://cdbg.mayors.org/user/register>.

HUD NEWS

Acting Assistant Secretary for CPD, Mark Johnston, to Retire

Acting Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development (CPD), Mark Johnston, will retire on Friday, May 2, after 30 years of public service. Mark began his career as an intern for a Presidential Hunger Commission in 1983. In recent years, he has served as CPD's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs Assistance Programs. He also previously served as HUD's Senior Advisor on Homelessness and Deputy Director for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. We wish Mark well as he embarks on this new phase of his life. Cliff Taffet, CPD's General Deputy Assistant Secretary will replace Mark as Acting Assistant Secretary for CPD until a permanent replacement can be found.

IDIS Training for CDBG Grantees

HUD's Office of Affordable Housing is offering several two-day trainings for CDBG grantees on IDIS in May and June. The training will provide information on the 11.5.1 release of IDIS, including the new Section 108 functionality. It will also provide hands-on training on entering data into IDIS, using IDIS reports to effectively manage and administer CDBG, and avoiding common mistakes.

Go to www.onecpd.info/news/upcoming-idis-for-cdbg-grantees-training/ for registration details. Only one individual per grantee will be allowed to register and attend a training session.

San Diego, CA: May 7-8

Chicago, IL: May 14-15

Portland, OR: May 21-22

Houston, TX: June 4-5

Greensboro, NC: June 10-11

Minneapolis, MN: June 25-26

IDIS Training for HOME Grantees

The following one-day HOME IDIS Training for participating jurisdictions will be held in May

and June.

Portland, OR: May 20

Houston, TX: June 3

Greensboro, NC: June 12

Boston, MA: June 17

Minneapolis, MN: June 24

To register go to: www.onecpd.info/news/upcoming-idis-for-home-pjs-training/

HUD Launches New eCon Planning Suite Resources

HUD has released the *Guide to the Data Driven Toolkit in CPD Maps* which provides information for using the Data Toolkit Widget in CPD Maps to analyze data to inform the Consolidated Plan process. HUD has also released the Citizen Participation and Consultation Toolkit to provide tips and information for assessing existing citizen participation and using the eCon Planning Suite to support your efforts. The guides are available at the following links.

<https://www.onecpd.info/resource/3818/guide-to-the-data-driven-planning-toolkit-in-cpd-maps/>

<https://www.onecpd.info/consolidated-plan/econ-planning-suite-citizen-participation-and-consultation-toolkit/>

FY2013-2014 Continuum of Care Awards Announced

Nearly \$1.6 billion in project renewal grants were doled out to Continuum of Care applicants on April 8. The grants will renew support for nearly 7,100 homeless housing and service programs across the country. The FY2013 grants were reduced in part due to last year's across-the-board cuts under sequestration. For a list of the winners, go to:

<https://www.onecpd.info/news/fy-2013-fy-2014-continuum-of-care-program-competition-fy-2013-tier-1-renewal-projects-award-announcement/>

NCDA NEWS

Communities Across the Country Celebrate National Community Development Week

Communities across the country celebrated National Community Development Week on April 21-26 through events and activities to bring attention to the importance of CDBG and HOME. NCDA started National Community Development Week nearly 30 years ago to harness grassroots support for CDBG which was under fiscal assault at the time. The following provides a snapshot of activities that occurred across the country during last week's CD Week campaign. NCDA thanks those members that held CD Week events.

Davenport, IA

CDBG Accessibility Celebration - a celebration of CDBG accessibility improvements with Rep. Dave Loebsack at the Freight House, a restored building that is undergoing CDBG funded accessibility improvements. CDBG-funded economic development, housing, and public service

programs were also recognized.

Richland County, SC

Richland County officials celebrated the opening of the Hopkins Family Practice, a new medical center that will provide access and care to low-income, underinsured and uninsured people. Nearly \$800,000 in CDBG funds was used to help develop the facility.

Newton, MA

The City of Newton led a tour of several projects including a LEED Gold certified affordable housing project funded with CDBG and HOME and a tour of the local Boys and Girls Club in which Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy, III spoke.

Santa Barbara, CA

The City of Santa Barbara developed a one-page snap shot highlighting some of the people who have benefitted from the CDBG program over the years, telling compelling stories of how local programs supported by CDBG have made positive and life-changing impacts to people in the community.

John A. Sasso National Community Development Week Award

As a means of recognizing community efforts to promote and celebrate the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program during the 2014 National Community Development Week, April 21-26, NCDA is announcing its 2014 John A. Sasso National Community Development Week Awards. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the CDBG program and the 14th anniversary of the John A. Sasso National CD Week Awards. Please see the attached award information for submission criteria. Submissions are due to NCDA by the **COB, May 23, 2014**. Please e-mail your submission to vicki@ncdaonline.org. The awards will be presented during a special luncheon on Friday, June 27, 2014, at the NCDA Annual Conference in Franklin County, OH.

Upcoming NCDA Training

HOME Basic Course Training

May 28-30

Champaign, IL

Cost: \$250 for members/\$350 for non-members

This 3-day course will provide a basic, but comprehensive overview of the HOME program, including the HOME program final rule changes. For more information and to register for the course, go to www.ncdaonline.org/home.asp.

Advanced CDBG Program

June 9-10

Murfreesboro, TN

Cost: \$200 for members/\$250 for non-members

This 1-1/2 day course is targeted to senior staff and managers who administer the CDBG program. The class format will allow participants to engage in discussion on effective program

planning, allocation of funding, program implementation challenges, leveraging additional resources, and problem solving. For more information and to register for the course, go to www.ncdaonline.org/cdbg.asp.

2014 Annual Conference - Franklin County, OH

The 2014 Annual Conference will be held in Franklin County (Columbus), OH on June 25-28. Franklin County is excited to host this event and showcase the County, Columbus, and its surrounding community development projects. Franklin County has been diligently working on this premier event since last summer and it promises to be an educational, yet fun experience for all who attend. We have the pleasure of celebrating the 40th Anniversary of CDBG this year and the agenda includes a special opening session to honor our landmark program.

Because of Franklin County's excellent work in obtaining conference sponsors, conference participants will receive a complimentary lunch all three days of the conference as well as participation in wonderfully planned evening excursions.

Please find attached an updated draft agenda. To register for the conference, go to http://ncdaonline.org/events/Annual14_Regform.asp

The conference will feature a variety of community development and affordable housing topics including:

- Implementing the HOME Final Rule (from the perspective of participating jurisdictions)
- Implementing the eCon Planning Suite (again, from the perspective of grantees)
- HOME program underwriting and subsidy layering
- Local projects tour
- Special session for directors of departments of community development
- Tool for managing federal grants
- Working with new immigrants
- Update on the National Housing Trust Fund
- Roundtable discussions on the following topics: monitoring, economic development, housing rehabilitation, energy efficiency, local housing trust funds, and veterans
- CDBG and HOME best practices
- John Sasso National Community Development Week Awards Luncheon
- HUD Program Update

The conference fee is \$350 for members and \$450 for non-members. Group discounts are available. When two or more persons attend from any single community, each person receives a \$25 discount. The conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza - Columbus Downtown. NCDA has secured a block of rooms at the rate of \$94.00/single and \$104.00/double per night, plus tax. The hotel will hold this block of rooms at this rate through **May 26, 2014**. Please book early! To make your reservation, please call the Crowne Plaza at 1-800-338-4462 and mention "NCDA Annual Conference" to receive the special room rate.

OTHER NEWS

Treasury Creating Office of State and Local Finance

A new office at the Department of Treasury will focus on state and local finance issues, including distressed municipalities and their management of local pension funds and other underfunded liabilities. The office will serve as Treasury's liaison to state and local governments and associations, monitor developments in municipal bond markets, support policies to improve the management of public pensions and other liabilities, and develop federal policy in response to issues that emerge in municipal financing markets.

