



NCDAA Washington Report

September 29, 2015

Over 2,500 Groups Ask Congress to Raise the Spending Caps

Over 2,500 national, state, and local groups, including NCDAA and many of its members, signed on to a letter urging Congress to raise the spending caps. The letter was led by NDD United, a broad network of organizations representing non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs. The letter noted the disparate cuts in non-defense programs over the years and urged Congress to replace sequestration with a balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not include further cuts to NDD programs.

The Budget Control Act enacted four years ago required across-the-board spending sequestration spending caps for a decade if Congress couldn't locate debt reduction elsewhere. The FY16 House and Senate spending bills have to abide by these spending caps. NCDAA and other national groups are part of NDD United which has been urging Congress to lift the spending caps so that housing and community development programs and other non-defense discretionary spending can be funded fairly in FY16.

The letter is available at <http://bit.ly/1O2yDjm>

Boehner to Step Down

House Republicans will meet this week to discuss their leadership options now that Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) announced last week his decision to step down as Speaker of the House of Representatives, a post he has held for nearly a decade. Boehner will step down from Congress on October 30.

Boehner's decision came shortly after Pope Francis's visit to Capitol Hill last week; an emotional event for the Speaker. For nearly 20 years, he has extended an invitation to the Pope to address the House, finally succeeding with Pope Francis. Prior to his announcement, a coup was underway by a block of ultra-conservative House GOP members – the House Freedom Caucus -- to oust Boehner, but it likely would not have succeeded. Boehner was tired of the infighting among the House GOP and chose to step down.

Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), the current Majority Leader, is considered the favorite to take over as Speaker of the House. While McCarthy is seen as a moderate, some worry he could be influenced by the House Freedom Caucus to push a more conservative House agenda. Several other candidates are vying for the position of Majority Leader, the second in command in the House, including House Budget Committee Chairman, Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), who has the backing of many conservative Republican House members including, Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), House Ways and Means Committee Chairman (and former House Budget Chairman).

Appropriations Update; Short-Term CR

After announcing his decision to retire from Congress, Speaker Boehner also indicated that he would put forth a Continuing Resolution (CR) free of any riders, avoiding a government shutdown. Ultra

conservative House GOP members continue to try to tie the defunding of Planned Parenthood to the CR. Boehner has acknowledged that he will need to tap Democratic support to move the bill forward, but expects it to move quickly. The Senate advanced its short-term spending bill last night, which runs through December 11, on a vote of 77-19. The CR is expected to be voted on and passed by the House today or tomorrow and then forwarded to the President for his signature.

The CR funds federal programs at their current levels through December 11, 2015. Passage of the short-term CR gives Congress more time to negotiate an omnibus spending measure (where several or all of the spending bills are rolled into one huge bill) or try to pass some of the spending bills individually or in mini blocks (minibus). Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell (R-KY), indicated during a press conference on September 16 that he is in favor of negotiations on a budget deal that would lift sequestration. President Obama is seeking \$76 billion above the FY16 sequester spending caps for increases in federal funding. He has said that he will veto any spending bill that does not lift the caps. Senator Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Speaker John Boehner reached out to President Obama last week to begin budget negotiations. McConnell wants to avoid any prospects of a government shutdown during an election year.

Sanctuary Cities Bill Update

Introduced by Senator David Vitter on July 21, S. 1814 – Stop Sanctuary Cities Act – would withhold certain funding from States and jurisdictions that do not comply with federal enforcement laws pertaining to the reporting and detention of undocumented immigrants. S. 1814 was due to be marked-up three times, but has been rescheduled each time. The bill is now set to be marked up on Thursday, October 1, but Congressional staff think it will likely be postponed again. The bill defines a sanctuary city broadly and could affect as many as 300 jurisdictions. Reach out to your local Attorney's office or Mayor/County Executive to learn if your jurisdiction falls within the definition of sanctuary city, as defined by S. 1814 (see below).

The measure initially denied sanctuary cities from receiving Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding. However, on August 5, Vitter and Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA), Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, offered a substitute amendment that added CDBG, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funding to the mix of programs that would be denied sanctuary cities. S. 1814 defines a sanctuary city as a State or local jurisdictions which (1) has a policy that prohibits or restricts sending to, or receiving from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual, or (2) fails to comply with a detainer request or a DHS notification request about the release from custody of an alien.

The CDBG Coalition is being kept informed of the amendment and the mark-up by Senator Patrick Leahy's (D-VT) office, ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Leahy's staff have asked that the CDBG Coalition's letter opposing the amendment be held back for now, in case the mark-up is rescheduled again. Leahy plans to use the letter – and others – during mark-up to reinforce the opposition to including CDBG funding in the mix.

Please continue to reach out to your Senators at <http://www.senate.gov> and urge them to reach out to Senators Vitter and Grassley to drop CDBG from their amendment. Please feel free to contact Vicki Watson at 540-656-9552 with any questions.

Mark Your Calendars: Webinar on the Spending Caps, Budget Negotiations

NCDA is working with several other national organizations to develop a webinar to educate the public on the spending caps, how a possible year-long Continuing Resolution would impact affordable housing and community development programs, and what you can do to engage your Congressional Members and the media by sharing stories of the impact on your community.

The webinar is scheduled for October 19, 2015, at 3 pm EDT. To register go to:

<https://enterprisecommunity.webex.com/enterprisecommunity/onstage/g.php?MTID=e98ad3fc55909c bc2c57b4b1c16b86adf>

CDBG Coalition Survey Re-Opened; Please Complete the Survey by October 30

The CDBG Coalition survey on “The Impact of the CDBG Cuts” has been re-opened to allow more grantees to complete it. The survey will remain open through **October 30**. The results will be combined with the survey results obtained earlier this year for use in the CDBG Coalition’s advocacy efforts. The survey has been shortened (deleting previous questions pertaining to CDBG disaster relief) in an effort to reduce the completion time from 1 hour down to 30 minutes. Please read through the survey first to compile any information that may be needed before starting it. It may be helpful to assign one staff person to collect and enter the information into the survey.

The information derived from the survey is extremely important to the Coalition’s advocacy efforts to protect CDBG funding, so it is critical that NCDA members complete the survey. NAHRO is taking the lead on the survey on behalf of the CDBG Coalition, so if you have any questions, please reach out to Jenny Hsu at jhsu@nahro.org. The survey is available at the following link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CDBGSurveyAugust2015>

House Financial Services Committee Seeks Recommendations for Restructuring and Improving HUD

House Financial Services Committee Chairman, Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), has issued a call for ideas to reform HUD and modernize the delivery of federal housing assistance.

Since most of NCDA’s members are not directly involved in delivering federal housing assistance – Section 8 and public housing – we will not provide comments. We do, however, encourage you to submit ideas. See details on how to submit ideas at:

<http://financialservices.house.gov/news/email/show.aspx?ID=EDYQM7V4NSLBZMGACQYP6NPRG4>

HUD NEWS

FY 2015 Continuum of Care Competition is Now Open

HUD has posted the NOFA for the FY15 CoC program competition. The information is available at the following site. The submission deadline is Friday, November 20.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/e-snaps/fy-2015-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/>

IDIS 11.11 Release Notification

The IDIS 11.11 release deployed on September 11 and went live in the system on September 14. The release made numerous modifications to IDIS, including changes to IDIS grantee contact information,

CDBG, Consolidated Plan, ESG, HOME, MicroStrategy Reports, and HEROS. The release notes are attached.

Affordable Housing Preservation Clinics

HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing Programs will hold a series of one-day preservation clinics for owners of Section 236 and Section 202 Direct Loan properties and their partners. The clinics will provide guidance on preserving these projects, addressing structural integrity, and financial viability. NCDA's members may want to attend to learn more about the preservation of these important housing resources in their communities. To register for the clinics, go to:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/news/hud-multifamily-affordable-housing-preservation-clinics/>

Save the date for the following clinics (Registration is Not Open Yet):

San Francisco Bay Area – October 20

Los Angeles, CA – October 22

Chicago, IL – November 3

Washington, DC – December 9

More information to follow on these locations (The dates for the clinics have not been set):

Columbus, OH

Jacksonville, FL

Atlanta, GA

NCDA NEWS

Interested in Hosting the 2017 or 2018 NCDA Annual Conference?

NCDA is soliciting proposals from members to host the 2017 and 2018 annual conferences. Hosting an NCDA conference provides the opportunity for you to showcase your community and local projects, add to your local economy, involve your local agencies and elected officials in the process, and develop new partnerships. NCDA will be there to assist you. The attached RFP outlines the host community requirements, hotel requirements, and other information.

Proposals are due to Vicki Watson at vicki@ncdaonline.org no later than December 18, 2015. The Planning and Professional Development Subcommittee will review the proposals at their January 2016 meeting and will forward their recommendations to the NCDA Board of Directors for approval on January 22, 2016. The selected communities will be contacted shortly thereafter.

Fall Training Courses

Please go to <http://ncdaonline.org/CDBG.asp> to register for the following courses.

Advanced CDBG: Managing an Effective Program (1-1/2 days); CDBG/HOME Underwriting (1/2 day) -
These courses are offered together in a two-day block.

October 26-27, 2015

Little Rock, AR

Fee: \$250 members/\$300 non-members

Advanced CDBG: Managing an Effective Program (1-1/2 days); CDBG/HOME Underwriting (1/2 day) -
These courses are offered together in a two-day block.

November 17-18, 2015
Providence, RI
Fee: \$250 members/\$300 non-members

Plan to Attend One of NCDA's Fall Regional Conferences

Region VI

October 26-28, 2015
Little Rock Marriott – 3 Statehouse Plaza
Little Rock, AR
Room rate: \$89 plus tax; Register by October 9 to receive this special rate
Register online at <http://ncdaregionvi.weebly.com/>
For more information contact Matt Jennings, NCDA Region VI President, at mjennings@fortsmithar.gov.

Region I

November 19-20, 2015
Providence Biltmore
Providence, RI
Room rate: \$131 plus tax
The agenda and registration will be posted to the Region I website at <http://ncdaregion1.yolasite.com/>
For more information, contact Anne Marie Belrose, NCDA Region I President, at annemarie.belrose@boston.gov.

NCDA Seeking Sponsors for its 2016 Winter Conference

NCDA is accepting sponsorships for its 2016 Winter Conference, which will be held in Washington, DC on January 20-22, 2016. Conference sponsorship provides the opportunity to support NCDA, network with NCDA's members, and market your materials, products, and programs. As with any conference, our financial success depends on strong partnerships to help defray the costs. Please reach out to your regions and local networks to advise them of the sponsorship opportunities. The minimum sponsorship level is \$1,000. The sponsorship chart and form is attached and is also available at <http://ncdaonline.org/>. Please contact Vicki Watson at 540-626-9552 with any questions.

Save the Date: 2016 Winter Conference – January 20-22; Early Registration Ends October 30

The 2016 NCDA Winter Conference will be held on January 20-22 at the Holiday Inn Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The conference promises to be a venue for learning, partnerships, and showcasing local projects for all who attend. NCDA's Planning and Professional Development Subcommittee has developed an agenda that is focused on issues of importance to you and your fellow grantees. Session topics will include the following:

- Grant-based accounting for HUD's CPD programs
- Funding infrastructure projects
- Underwriting CDBG economic development projects
- Underwriting HOME rental projects
- Working with developers on LIHTC projects
- Redeveloping blighted and vacant areas
- Disaster planning and preparedness
- Online mapping tools
- American Community Survey
- Leadership roundtable

- CDBG Coalition
- HUD policy update
- Fair housing
- Small roundtable discussions will be held on the following topics: section 3, housing rehabilitation, sustainable communities, National Housing Trust Fund, Uniform Physical Condition Standards for HOME, CDBG basics

Since this is NCDA's legislative conference, we have set-aside time on the agenda for you to meet with your Congressional Members to educate them on the need to provide full funding for CDBG and HOME in FY17. Please arrange the meetings directly with your Congressional Member ahead of time. To contact your Congressional Member call the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121. Once connected your Member's office, ask to speak to the scheduler. Please begin NOW to compile data on your CDBG and HOME programs, such as activities funded in the past few years, beneficiaries served by the programs, unmet housing and community development need in your community (this will relay the importance of increasing funding for the programs), and other information you deem important. It would also be helpful to pepper your data with testimonials from program beneficiaries and photos of projects. On the first morning of the conference you will receive guidance from Congressional staff and NCDA staff on how to conduct your visits.

The Winter Conference is where most of NCDA's policy is developed and approved for the coming year and we encourage you to participate in the subcommittee meetings to hear first-hand NCDA's policy priorities and participate in the process.

HUD headquarters staff will participate in the HUD policy update session, grant-based accounting session, underwriting economic development projects, and several subcommittee meetings.

The full agenda is attached and is also available at <http://ncdaonline.org/>

NCDA is instituting a new tiered registration system, as follows. **Register early!** Go to http://ncdaonline.org/events/Winter16_Regform.asp to register for the conference.

Registration Fee Schedule

Early Registration (register by October 30)

Members: \$400

Non-Members: \$450

Payment Deadline: December 1, 2015; Payment received after this date will incur a \$50 late fee.

General Registration (October 31 – January 3)

Members: \$450

Non-Members: \$500

Payment Deadline: January 15, 2016; Payment received after this date will incur a \$50 late fee.

Late Registration (registrations received after January 4)

Members: \$550

Non-Members: \$600

Payment Deadline: January 20, 2016; Payment received after this date will incur a \$50 late fee.

Group Discounts

When three or more persons attend from any single community, each person receives a \$50 discount.

Electronic Invoicing and Payment

In an effort to make life easier for members and provide efficient processing of invoices, persons registering for one of NCDA's training courses and conferences, will automatically receive an invoice upon registering online. You also have the option to pay your invoice electronically through PayPal. NCDA would like to thank Jim Welfley for setting up this system for members.

Save the Date: 2016 NCDA Annual Conference – June 22-25, 2016

NCDA will hold its 2016 Annual Conference in Milwaukee, WI on June 22-25, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee. More detail to follow.

**Department of Housing and Urban Development
Budget Chart**

Program	FY15 Enacted Funding Level	President's FY16 Budget Request	House Appropriations Committee	Senate Appropriations Committee
CDBG Formula Grants	\$3.0 billion	\$2.8 billion	\$3.0 billion	\$2.9 billion
HOME Formula Grants	\$900 million	\$1.060 million	\$900 million	\$66 million
Homeless Assistance Grants	\$2.135 billion	\$2.480 billion	\$2.185 billion	\$2.235 billion
Section 108	\$500 million	\$500 million	\$300 million	\$300 million
Choice Neighborhoods	\$80 million	\$250 million	\$20 million	\$65 million
HOPWA	\$330 million	\$332 million	\$332 million	\$330 million
Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction	\$110 million	\$120 million	\$75 million	\$110 million
Elderly Housing (Section 202)	\$420 million	\$455 million	\$414 million	\$420 million
Housing for Persons with Disabilities (811)	\$135 million	\$177 million	\$152 million	\$137 million
Housing Counseling	\$47 million	\$60 million	\$47 million	\$47 million
Housing Choice Vouchers	\$19.304 billion	\$21.123 billion	\$18.15 billion	\$19.934 billion
Project-Based Section 8	\$9.730 billion	\$10.760 billion	\$10.254 billion	\$10.826 billion
Public Housing Capital Fund	\$1.875 billion	\$1.970 billion	\$1.681 billion	\$1.742 billion
Public Housing Operating Fund	\$4.440 billion	\$4.600 billion	\$4.440 billion	\$4.5 billion