



NCD A Washington Report

July 29, 2016

Congress in Recess

Congress is in recess until after Labor Day. Congressional appropriators have reached consensus on most of the FY17 spending bills, so expect passage of a Continuing Resolution (CR) when they return. The CR is expected to run until after the November elections where more time will be devoted to either a long-term CR or omnibus spending bill.

NCD A and Other CHCDF Members Provide Policy Recommendations to the DNC and RNC

The Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) provided housing and community development policy recommendations to both the Republican and Democratic platform committees prior to the start of their conventions. NCD A is a member and participant of this 70-member coalition of national housing, homeless, and community development organizations working together to obtain the highest levels of funding for HUD's programs. The letters to the DNC and RNC are attached. CHCDF also sent a letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) in response to the GOP's recently released poverty plan.

CHCDF and Make Room: 100 Days, 1 Million Messages

Homelessness and the lack of decent, safe, affordable housing continues to be an issue across the country. The Campaign for Housing and Community and Development Funding and Make Room USA have joined forces to elevate the national messaging on the need for more affordable housing. The aim of this national effort is to send 1 million messages to Congress between now and the election about the critical need to make affordable housing a top priority. This effort will include the development of a national sign-on letter as well as a platform for organizations and individuals to send direct messages – e-mails, phone calls, tweets – to members of Congress.

H.R. 3700 Enacted

Following a House vote earlier in the year, the Senate unanimously approved H.R. 3700, the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act, on July 14. The bill will enable the use of more vouchers to help low-income people access areas of opportunity and allow public housing authorities to use more of their vouchers to assist the homeless. The bill will streamline rent determinations and voucher inspections to lower administrative burden and costs for housing agencies. It will also allow public housing authorities to use their operating funds for capital improvements to address pressing renovation needs. The bill also directs HUD to update the HOPWA formula to match funding for states and metropolitan areas to current levels of need.

Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act Introduced

Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (S. 3237) to expand and strengthen the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. The Act builds on housing credit legislation (S. 2962) introduced by Senators Cantwell and Hatch earlier this year by adding provisions to make the program more flexible and streamlined, including: (1) expanding the annual Housing Credit by 50 percent to address the need for more affordable housing; (2) creating a permanent minimum 4 percent Housing Credit rate for acquisition and for Housing Bond-financed properties; and (3) permit income averaging within Housing Credit properties in order to preserve targeting while providing more flexibility to local needs.

EPA Announces \$10.7 Million to Clean Brownfield Sites

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced approximately \$10.7 million in supplemental funding to help transform communities by cleaning up contaminated brownfield properties. EPA plans to provide supplemental funding to [33 successful Revolving Loan Fund \(RLF\) grantees](#), helping more than 40 communities carry out cleanup and redevelopment projects. These projects will help communities create jobs while protecting people's health and the environment. RLFs supply funding for loans and sub-grants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. The supplemental funding to each grantee ranges from about \$200,000 to \$500,000.

Senator Menendez Introduces Bill to Address Abandoned Foreclosures

Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) has introduced a bill, Preventing Abandoned Foreclosures and Preserving Communities Act. The State of New Jersey has the most abandoned, or "zombie," in the Nation foreclosures, with over 4,000. An abandoned foreclosure occurs when a servicer files for foreclosure, the homeowner moves out, and then the servicer does not complete the foreclosure with no notice to the borrower. The bill would require servicers to inform borrowers that they could remain in the home until state law required them to move out. Services would be required to make clear that the borrower is still responsible for any taxes or assessments during the foreclosure process. Servicers would have to notify the borrower and the municipality if they choose not to complete a foreclosure.

HUD Awards \$8 Million in Choice Neighborhoods Funding

HUD has awarded \$8 million through the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative to [10 severely distressed neighborhoods](#). These funds will help communities create plans to revitalize and transform neighborhoods by collaboration of local governments, housing authorities, residents, nonprofits, developers, school districts, police departments and other organizations. Four (Shreveport, LA; Phoenix, AZ; Louisville, KY; and Dayton, OH) of the ten winners will receive action grant funds in addition to planning grants.

Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Deadline

The final deadline to submit Con Plans and Annual Action Plans to HUD is Tuesday, August 16. Under 24 CFR 91.15(a)(2) in no event will HUD accept a submission of a consolidated plan or annual action plan later than August 16 of the federal fiscal year for which the grant funds are appropriated.

HUD Publishes Set of Integrity Bulletins for CPD Programs

The HUD Office of the Inspector General and the Office of Community Planning and Development have developed [Integrity Bulletins](#) on the topic of Procurement and Contracting and another on Conflicts of Interest to help grantees strengthen their program administration. Over the next few months, four more Bulletins will be developed on the following topics: (1) sub-recipient oversight; (2) internal controls; (3) documentation and reporting; and (4) financial management.

HUD Announces the Release of the Maximizing Investments Toolkit

This resource includes tools and guidance to help grantees identify local housing and community development needs and determine how to most effectively use their resources to address those needs. [The Toolkit](#) focuses on the following areas: (1) evaluating performance; (2) determining resources; (3) administering programs; (4) consulting with stakeholders; (5) determining needs and setting priorities; and (6) setting goals.

NLIHC Creates Site for National Housing Trust Fund Information

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition has made allocation plan information for each state available on its National Housing Trust Fund website. Each [state page](#) will include draft allocation plans, notices of public comment periods, and contact information for the State Designated Entity. Information about public hearings and deadlines for each state is also available. The site will be updated as new materials become available.

Coming Home Again

Freddie Mac is sponsoring a series of workshops called Coming Home Again developed by the Nickerson Group. These free, one-day workshops are designed to provide information to nonprofit providers and public sector officials on increasing mortgage credit to first-time homebuyers, especially for lower income and minority households. The next workshop is scheduled for August 23 in Phoenix, AZ. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Please contact the Nickerson Group at 800-494-1283 with any questions.

Update Your NCD A Username and Password

In our effort to upgrade our website and database we need you to please go to the link below to create a new password to access the Members Only sections of the website. Please contact Vicki Watson at vwatson@ncdaonline.org with any questions.

<http://ncdaonline.org/membercredential.asp>

NCD A is on Facebook and Twitter

Thanks to the efforts of Melissa Horr Pond (Quincy, MA) NCD A is now on Facebook and Twitter. We are seeking content to add to the Facebook page, such as photos (with captions) and videos. Please feel free to e-mail those items to Melissa at mhorr@quincyma.gov.

<https://www.facebook.com/NCD Aonline/>

Twitter: @NCD Aonline

NCD A HOME and CDBG Training Available

Please see below NCD A's CDBG and HOME training schedule. Both the CDBG and HOME basics courses provide a comprehensive overview of the programs through lecture and in-class exercises. The courses are filling up quickly, so we advise you to register immediately. Go [here](#) to register for a HOME course and go [here](#) to register for a CDBG course.

HOME Basics Course (Spaces Available)

August 24-26

Santa Rosa, CA (Host: Sonoma County)

CDBG Basics: Training for Practitioners (Full)

September 21-23

Santa Rosa, CA (Host: Sonoma County)

CDBG Basics: Training for Practitioners (Spaces Available)

September 28-30

Philadelphia, PA

HOME Basics Course (Spaces Available)

October 24-25

Albuquerque, NM

CDBG Basics: Training for Practitioners (Spaces Available)

November 1-3

Lexington, SC (Host: Lexington County)

If you would like NCDA to provide on-site CDBG and HOME training to your staff, please contact Steve Gartrell at sgartrell@ncdaonline.org.

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

Program	FY16 Enacted Funding Level	President's FY17 Budget Request	Senate FY17 Request	House Appropriations Committee FY17 Request
CDBG Formula Grants	\$3.0 billion	\$2.8 billion	\$3.0 billion	\$3.0 billion
HOME Formula Grants	\$950 million	\$950 million	\$950 million	\$950 million
Homeless Assistance Grants	\$2.25 billion	\$2.664 million	\$2.330 billion	\$2.487 billion
Section 108	\$300 million	\$300 million	\$300 million	\$300 million
Choice Neighborhoods	\$125 million	\$200 million	\$80 million	\$100 million
HOPWA	\$335 million	\$335 million	\$335 million	\$335 million
Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction	\$110 million	\$110 million	\$135 million	\$130 million
Elderly Housing (Section 202)	\$433 million	\$505 million	\$505 million	\$505 million
Housing for Persons with Disabilities (811)	\$151 million	\$154 million	\$154 million	\$154 million
Housing Counseling	\$47 million	\$47 million	\$47 million	\$55 million
Housing Choice Vouchers	\$19.629 billion	\$20.854 billion*	\$20.432 billion**	\$20.189 billion***
Project-Based Section 8	\$10.62 billion	\$10.816 billion	\$10.901 billion	\$10.901 billion
Public Housing Capital Fund	\$1.9 billion	\$1.865 billion	\$1.925 billion	\$1.900 billion
Public Housing Operating Fund	\$4.5 billion	\$4.569 billion	\$4.675 billion	\$4.500 billion

*includes \$18.447 billion for voucher renewals, \$110 million for tenant protection vouchers, \$2 billion for administrative fees, \$88 million for new/restored vouchers, and \$110 million for Section 811 Mainstream Vouchers

**includes \$18.355 billion for voucher renewals, \$110 million for tenant-protection vouchers, \$1.769 billion for administrative fees, \$20 million for new/restored vouchers, and \$110 million for Section 811 Mainstream Vouchers

***Includes \$18.312 billion for voucher renewals, \$110 million for tenant-protection vouchers, \$1.650 billion for administrative fees, \$7 million for new Tribal HUD-VASH vouchers, and \$110 million for Section 811 Mainstream Vouchers.