



NCDCA Washington Report

April 17, 2017

National Community Development Week: April 17-22

Hopefully, all of you are participating in National Community Development Week in one form or another to recognize the importance, need, and proven results of the CDBG and HOME programs in your community. The Trump Administration has proposed the elimination of CDBG and HOME in his FY 2018 [“skinny” budget](#) released in early March. These proposed cuts are unacceptable and now is the perfect time to show your members of Congress how misguided the President’s proposal is. Your help is needed to convey to Congress the importance of a robust, consistent federal investment in community development programs. Please join your colleagues across the country in voicing support for community development programs by participating in National Community Development Week. Whether you’ve got a large community event planned or if you only have the capacity to send a letter, reach out to your members of Congress this week to tell them how important funding for CDBG and HOME is and the good work you’re doing with federal dollars locally. Be sure to add local information about how CDBG and HOME impacts your community.

The CDBG Coalition issued a [press release](#) announcing National CD Week. NCDCA will also participate in a press briefing with the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and National Association of Counties (NACo) on April 19. NCDCA, USCM and NACo together created National CD Week 31 years ago. The briefing will provide an overview of the history of National CD Week and the CDBG program to national, regional and local press outlets. Mayors and other participants on the call will discuss CD Week events in their communities. Bonnie Moore, NCDCA’s President and Community Development Director for the City of Shreveport, LA, will participate in the briefing on behalf of NCDCA and its members and will provide an overview of the CDBG program and highlight CD Week events in her community.

Please share your National CD Week activities through NCDCA’s Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter pages. Use the following hashtags: #CDWeek2017, #CDBGImpact, #HOMEImpact, #Fight4CDBG, #Fight4HOME

NCDCA Facebook link: <https://m.facebook.com/NCDCAonline>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3718262>

Twitter: @NCDCAonline

Google Drive: <http://bit.ly/CDWeek> contains NCDA's National CD Week resources

NCDA National CD Week Activities Tracker: www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017NCDACDWeek

The following provides a brief sampling of some of the activities that will be conducted by NCDA's members during National Community Development Week.

Bridgeport, CT will hold a rally to protest the proposed cuts to CDBG and HOME. Mayor Ganim, Members of the Connecticut Delegation including Senators Murphy and Blumenthal, Representative Jim Himes, City Council Members, Citizen's Union Members, local non-profit organizations, beneficiaries (including Veterans), other city officials, and citizens will rally together on April 18 to voice their opposition to the cuts. Participants will sign a letter to Congressional Appropriators opposing the cuts.

Valdosta, GA will involve many CDBG local partners in its National CD Week activities including: Habitat for Humanity, Goodwill, the local chamber of commerce, Valdosta City Schools, Valdosta State University Small Business Development Center, and the local parks and recreation department, among others.

Senator Al Franken (D-MN) will be in **Duluth, MN** on April 20 for a tour of a CDBG-funded housing project, followed by a press event.

Killeen, TX will host Rep. John Carter (R-TX), a member of the House Transportation-HUD (THUD) Subcommittee, at a tour of a CDBG-funded neighborhood revitalization project.

Longmont, CO produced, perhaps, the cutest and catchiest [video](#) about CDBG ever for National CD Week. The video is led and narrated by children and pre-teens and tells the story of how CDBG is used in Longmont. **Manchester, NH** also produced an outstanding [video](#) for National Community Development Week which showcases local projects funded with CDBG, HOME and HUD's homeless assistance programs. **Holyoke, MA** will also develop a short CDBG/HOME projects video and will invite Congressional Members to participate in their National CD Week events.

Rep. David Price (D-NC), Ranking Member of the House THUD, will visit an adaptive reuse project in **Durham, NC** on April 19. The project is a collaboration between the city, the county, and the school district. The project provides 79 units of elderly housing and 11 classrooms for pre-K education. The city contributed \$600,000 in HOME funds to the project. The Citizens Advisory Committee and Department of Community Development staff will participate in a breakfast service on April 18 at a homeless provider facility. Staff and others will participate in a Habitat for Humanity build on April 22.

Richland County, SC will hold a tour of CDBG-funded projects including the Epworth Children's Home where CDBG funds were used to renovate the residential halls and St. Lawrence Place, another CDBG-funded project, which is a 30-unit residential community where homeless families can find skills and shelter that foster independence.

Murfreesboro, TN and **Beaverton, OR** will draft an article/op-ed on CDBG and/or National CD Week for their local papers. Beaverton will tweet and post on Facebook about CDBG throughout the week.

State legislators and Congressional Members have been invited to the ribbon-cutting of a new Veterans housing project in **Weymouth, MA**. Local Veterans have been invited to participate in the event. The project was completed with HOME funds in partnership with NeighborWorks. **Arlington, TX** has invited its Congressional Members to attend a ribbon-cutting of a HOME-funded CHDO project on April 20. Homeowners will be on-site during the ribbon-cutting.

Bryan, TX and **College Station, TX** are working together on National CD Week and will issue a press release to all local media announcing National CD Week and will also meet with their Congressional Members.

Portland, ME will conduct an all-encompassing National CD Week campaign which will include a projects tour, meeting with Congressional Members, article/op-ed in the local newspaper, press release, proclamation, and Twitter/Facebook messaging.

Fort Worth, TX will issue a press release and proclamation and participate in Twitter/Facebook messaging throughout the week.

Carrollton, TX will undertake a local service project with one of their subrecipients.

FY 2017 Funding Update

Congress will return the week of April 24 to wrap-up the FY 2017 spending bills. All federal agencies are currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) through April 28. Most of the spending bills (including the Transportation-HUD bill) have been completed but a few others remain up-in-the-air. If all of the spending bills are completed and ready to go by April 28, Congress will pass the bills together in the form of an omnibus bill. If some of the spending bills remain unfinished, those bills will likely operate under a CR through September 30 and will be attached to the omnibus bill (this is known as a CRomnibus).

All signs point to level funding for CDBG (\$3.0 billion) and HOME (\$950 million) for FY 2017. The Administration sent a FY 2017 supplemental funding request to Congress in late March seeking \$18 billion to construct the border wall and fund some defense priorities. As part of this supplemental request, the Administration requested that \$1.5 billion be taken from CDBG in FY 2017 to help pay for the border wall. In recent days, the Administration has signaled that it will defer seeking funding on the wall and defense spending for FY 2017 in order to avoid a government shutdown. At least eight Democrats must support a spending bill in the Senate, so any final bill will need bipartisan support.

FY 2018 Funding Update

As mentioned earlier, President Trump released a FY 2018 “skinny” budget in March. In total, the President requested \$40.7 billion for HUD for FY 2018, a decrease of \$6.2 billion or 13 percent from FY 2016 levels. The bulk of these cuts come from community development programs: CDBG, HOME, Choice Neighborhoods, Section 4, and the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP). The President recommended the elimination of CDBG, claiming that “the Federal Government [sic] has

spent over \$150 billion on this block grant since its inception in 1974, but the program is not well-targeted to the poorest populations and has not demonstrated results.” Similarly, the President has also recommended the elimination of HOME, claiming “state and local governments are better positioned to serve their communities based on local needs and priorities.”

The Administration is expected to release a final budget in May. The House and Senate THUD subcommittees will not begin work on their respective FY 2018 spending bills until this final budget is released.

House/Senate Dear Colleague Letters

Thank you for reaching out to your Congressional Members to sign-on to the House and Senate CDBG and HOME Dear Colleague Letters. A record number of Congressional Members supported the CDBG Dear Colleague Letter this year -- 164 Representatives and 41 Senators. The letter seeks increased funding for CDBG (\$3.3 billion) in FY 2018. We thank the following House Members for leading the House CDBG Dear Colleague Letter: Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), Rep. Peter King (R-NY), Rep. James McGovern (D-MA), Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA), and Rep. Robert Brady (D-PA). We thank Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) for leading the Senate letter this year.

A total of 108 House Members and 43 Senators (a record) signed on to the HOME Dear Colleague Letter in support of increasing HOME funding to \$1.2 billion in FY 2018. The Senate HOME Dear Colleague Letter was led by Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) led the House HOME Dear Colleague Letter.

The letters were sent to THUD Subcommittee leaders.

National Sign-On Letter

The CDBG Coalition, through NCDA, is leading a national CDBG sign-on letter seeking \$3.3 billion for the program in FY 2018. The letter is open to national, state, and local organizations and governments. Please go [here](#) to add your agency or subrecipient agencies to the letter.

CDBG Coalition Activities

The CDBG Coalition sent a request to all House and Senate THUD members in March seeking prioritization of funding at \$3.3 billion for CDBG in the FY 2018 spending bill. The Coalition also worked with House and Senate Members to craft the Dear Colleague Letters seeking \$3.3 billion for the program. NCDA is leading the CDBG Coalition’s National CDBG Support Letter which has garnered support from over 2,500 national, state and local organizations so far. Coalition members have met with all of the THUD offices and will start meeting with members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees this week. The Coalition is also working on a national CDBG report that will be released later this spring.

Continued CDBG and HOME Messaging

Congressional Members must continue to hear from you on CDBG and HOME beyond National Community Development Week. The appropriations process is getting started late this year due to the tardy release of the President's full budget, which is expected to be sent to Congress in mid-May. Congress is not expected to mark up the THUD bills until late May or sometime in June. We must ensure CDBG and HOME are fully funded and your voice is needed to help in this endeavor. If you have not already done so, please send the attached sample letter to your Congressional Members. The letter should be signed by your local elected official (Mayor or County Executive) or department head. To obtain the contact information for your House Member go to www.house.gov/representatives/find/. Go to www.senate.gov to obtain the contact information for your senators. Please e-mail or fax the letter to both their District office (the one closest to you) and their DC office. Please call to confirm receipt of the letter. Include the attached sample fact sheets with the letter.

Please also call both their District office and DC office to ask your Congressional Members to (1) oppose elimination or funding cuts to CDBG and HOME in FY 2018; and (2) support full funding of both programs in FY 2018. Please find attached an action plan poster developed by Franklin County, OH which they used to tell the story of their CDBG/HOME programs, leveraging and outcomes. Please contact Jordan Frase at jxfrase@franklincountyohio.gov for a copy of the template to send to your Congressional members.

Most importantly, please meet with your Congressional Members or their staff in their District office or invite them to a site visit. Placement of an op-ed or CDBG/HOME story in your local paper is also encouraged. Many Congressional offices track media mentions and your article is likely to be noticed by the office.

302b Letter

The Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding, of which NCDA is a member, sent a letter to Congressional leaders urging them to (1) lift the spending caps required by the Budget Control Act; and (2) ensure the highest funding possible for affordable housing, community development, and transportation programs in FY 2018. Nearly 3,500 national, state, local and tribal organizations and governments signed the letter.

OMB Directs Federal Agencies to Streamline, Cut Employees

In an [April 12 memorandum](#), Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, directed federal agencies to identify "near term" and "long term" employee cuts in line with the President's proposed FY 2018 budget and in preparation of the President's FY 2019 budget request. The memorandum stems from a March 13 Presidential Executive Order on the development of a comprehensive plan by OMB to reorganize government functions and eliminate unnecessary programs and agencies. The memo directs federal agencies to provide to OMB by June 30, 2017 a draft of their Agency Reform Plan, progress on near-term workforce reduction actions, and a plan to maximize employee performance. The final Agency Reform Plans will be used to develop program and agency reform proposals in the President's FY 2019 budget.

Urban Institute Releases CDBG Report

The Urban Institute issued a policy brief this month that focuses on the design and implementation of the CDBG program and offers recommendations for re-tooling the program. As the brief accurately points out, program funding has lagged behind inflation and not kept pace with the number of entitlement communities that receive direct, annual allocations. While we agree with the recommendation that program funding needs to be increased, we do not agree that the number of entitlement communities be reduced. The full brief is available [here](#).

April is NCDA Membership Month

NCDA is holding a month-long membership campaign. With CDBG and HOME proposed for elimination, boosting the membership of NCDA to support the fight against these threats is imperative. We invite you to reach out to grantees in your state and region to encourage them to join NCDA. As a member, you can attest to the work and benefits of the Association. As an incentive, new members who join the Association in April will receive free membership through June 30, 2017. NCDA has mailed a membership brochure to all non-member CDBG grantees. Grantees who are interested in joining NCDA can go [here](#).

Save the Date for the NCDA Annual Conference – June 14-17

The 48th Annual NCDA Conference will be held in Miami, FL on June 14-17 at the Hyatt Regency Miami. Please see the attached, updated conference agenda. NCDA has reserved a block of rooms at the rate of \$119 per night. The cut-off date for making hotel reservations is May 15. Reservations received after this date will be based on room availability at the best available rate offered by the hotel, so book now! To make your reservation, call 888-421-1442 and reference the NCDA Room Block. You can also register at the following link: <https://aws.passkey.com/e/14797443>.

General conference registration rate of \$550 for members and \$650 for non-members ends on June 3, 2017. The rate will increase after this date, so register now! Please go [here](#) to register for the conference. Please contact Steve Gartrell at sgartrell@ncdaonline.org with any questions concerning hotel or conference registration.

NCDA Training

NCDA will hold several CDBG Basics courses and one HOME Basics course over the next several weeks. This will conclude our Spring Training series. Training will not be offered again until the fall. If you are interested in one of the following courses, please register by the deadline. Course information is available at <http://ncdaonline.org/training>. Please contact Steve Gartrell at sgartrell@ncdaonline.org with any questions.

CDBG Basics (3-day certification course)

Bridgeport, CT – May 1-3 (Deadline 4/21/2017)

Madison, WI – May 8-10 (Deadline 4/24/2017)

Murfreesboro, TN – May 16-18 (Deadline 5/1/2017)

HOME Basics (3-day certification course)

Framingham, MA – May 15-17 (Deadline 5/1/2017)

HUD Releases Revised CPD Monitoring Handbook

The following CDBG program substantial changes have been made to [HUD's Monitoring Handbook](#).

Chapter 3 – CDBG Entitlement Exhibits. This chapter now includes 2 CFR part 200 requirements to Exhibits 3-1 through 3-23. Exhibit 3-15 on NRSA's has been revised to incorporate CPD Notice 16-16 and to monitor progress made on approved NRSA plans. A new code enforcement exhibit (Exhibit 3-23) has been added to reflect the code enforcement requirements. Exhibit 3-24 has been added to reflect the public services cap and planning and administrative cap requirements.

Chapter 5 – Section 108 Loan Guarantees, Economic Development Initiative (EDI and Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI). This chapter was updated to include applicable requirements to reflect the incorporation of Section 108 into IDIS.

Chapter 19 – Citizen Participation Plan. This chapter was updated to incorporate Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) requirements, where applicable, for the Citizen Participation Plan. AFFH requirements are provided in the brackets.

Action Plan Tips

CPD has prepared a Guide on common errors occurring in setting up action plans in the e-Con Planning Suite. According to HUD, grantees are advised not to submit their consolidated plan/action plan until after the FY 2017 allocations have been announced. Grantees due to submit a new 3-5 year consolidated plan in 2017 should refrain from submitting the overall con plan and the FY 2017 action plan contained within the overall document. Guidance on submitting FY 2017 Plans is provided in CPD Notice 16-18 (attached) and the Action Plan Tips Quick Guide (also attached).

HUD will hold a webinar on May 4 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm ET for grantees on best practices to successfully set-up your action plan in the eCon Planning Suite. To register for the webinar, go [here](#).

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	Continuing Resolution through April 28, 2017
CDBG Formula Grants	\$3.0 billion	\$2.8 billion	\$3.0 billion	\$3.0 billion	\$3.0 billion
HOME Formula Grants	\$950 million	\$950 million	\$950 million	\$950 million	\$950 million
Homeless Assistance Grants	\$2.25 billion	\$2.664 million	\$2.330 billion	\$2.487 billion	\$2.25 billion
Section 108	\$300 million	\$300 million	\$300 million	\$300 million	\$300 million
Choice Neighborhoods	\$125 million	\$200 million	\$80 million	\$100 million	\$125 million
HOPWA	\$335 million	\$335 million	\$335 million	\$335 million	\$335 million
Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction	\$110 million	\$110 million	\$135 million	\$130 million	\$110 million
Elderly Housing (Section 202)	\$433 million	\$505 million	\$505 million	\$505 million	\$433 million
Housing for Persons with Disabilities (811)	\$151 million	\$154 million	\$154 million	\$154 million	\$151 million
Housing Counseling	\$47 million	\$47 million	\$47 million	\$55 million	\$47 million
Housing Choice Vouchers	\$19.629 billion	\$20.854 billion*	\$20.432 billion**	\$20.189 billion***	\$19.629 billion
Project-Based Section 8	\$10.62 billion	\$10.816 billion	\$10.901 billion	\$10.901 billion	\$10.62 billion

Public Housing Capital Fund	\$1.9 billion	\$1.865 billion	\$1.925 billion	\$1.900 billion	\$1.9 billion
Public Housing Operating Fund	\$4.5 billion	\$4.569 billion	\$4.675 billion	\$4.500 billion	\$4.5 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.