



NCDCA Washington Report September 28, 2018

Appropriations Update

Conferees negotiating final numbers for the Agriculture, Interior-Environment, Financial Services and Transportation-HUD spending package were unable to reach agreement on some non-housing related policy items, delaying final approval of the bill. House Appropriations Chairman Rodney Freylinghuysen (R-NJ) had hoped to vote on the package before September 30, the end of the federal fiscal year, but action will now have to wait until Congressional Members return after the mid-term elections.

Reports are the Financial Services spending bill is what held up a final vote on the spending package. Negotiations stalled over two items: (1) a pay raise for federal employees; and (2) inclusion of a \$500 million fund that can only be tapped once annual deficits are eliminated.

Congress approved a continuing resolution this week (which was attached to the Labor-HHS-Education and Defense spending bill) to keep those federal agencies without approved spending bills operating through December 7. President Trump signed the measure this afternoon.

Work on the THUD portion of the bill wrapped up a couple of weeks ago. Congressional appropriators recommended \$3.3 billion for CDBG in FY19 (retaining the \$300 million increase made to the program in FY18). A final number for the HOME program has not leaked yet, but it will be somewhere between \$1.2 billion and \$1.362 billion. NCDCA and other groups have been advocating for the higher funding level.

Senate Approves Opioid Package; CDBG Housing Pilot Included

On September 17, the Senate passed the Opioid Crisis Response Act by a vote of 99-1. The House passed its own comprehensive opioid package in June. The two chambers are now working out differences in the two bills with the hope of sending final legislation to the President before the mid-term elections. Both measures combine several opioid-related measures into one package. The Senate measure includes a pilot CDBG housing program proposed by Senate Leader Mitch McConnell. The 5-year program would provide temporary housing for persons recovering from substance use disorders. Funds would be allocated to states with the highest need including those with the highest rates of drug overdose deaths. Congressional appropriators would decide the funding level and source of funds for the program. NCDCA met with Senator McConnell's office and appropriations staff this month to gain assurance that the

program would not be carved out of CDBG formula funds. We support a separate pot of CDBG funding or other source of funding, altogether, for the program. The opioid bill text can be located at the following link. The housing pilot is Section 8071 on page 528.

<https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20180924/HR6.pdf>

House Approves Disaster Recovery Reform Legislation

This week the House passed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) (H.R. 302). The bill was included as part of the FAA Reauthorization Act. The measure now heads to the Senate for consideration. The bi-partisan legislation provides reforms to federal disaster programs and focuses on providing disaster mitigation funding to assist communities in better preparing for future natural disasters.

- DRRA requires that six percent of disaster assistance provided to states and localities following a disaster be invested in pre-disaster mitigation.
- For those areas affected by wildfires, the bill would assist with pre-disaster mitigation plans.
- DRRA would require annual training for first responders focused on prioritizing assistance during an emergency to certain facilities.
- The bill requires FEMA to issue a report on duplication in non-natural disaster preparedness programs (Urban Area Security Initiative, Port Security Grant Program, State Homeland Security Grant Program, and Transit Security Grant Program).
- The bill prohibits FEMA from recouping certain funds from state and localities for assistance provided under Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and other federal emergency programs.
- The bill requires FEMA and the Federal Highway Administration to evaluate ways to streamline evacuation efforts by evaluating existing evacuation routes and improving infrastructure.

The measure awaits a vote in the Senate.

HUD NEWS

OIG Releases Audit Report on CDBG Code Enforcement

Earlier this week, HUD's Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued an audit [report](#) on HUD's CDBG code enforcement program. The specific objectives of the report were to determine if HUD's existing code enforcement guidance was adequate to ensure compliance, whether HUD followed the proper internal clearance for developing the guidance, and the adequacy of HUD's monitoring of grantees on code enforcement compliance.

The audit report found that HUD did not require training of field office staff or grantees on code enforcement activities and compliance. OIG conducted several external audits of CDBG grantees and HUD field offices and found that grantees failed to properly implement their code enforcement programs due to a lack of knowledge of requirements or incorrect interpretation of the regulations. The audit further found that the existing code enforcement guidance was not being interpreted consistently by field offices.

The report also found that HUD headquarters did not follow internal controls before issuing its current code enforcement guidance, Notice CPD-14-016. The Notice was not properly cleared by all of the internal offices that needed to do so.

The report recommended the following actions:

- HUD update and revise Notice CPD-14-016 to provide better code enforcement guidance to grantees and that HUD issue the Notice with proper clearance.
- HUD provide mandatory training on the revised Notice to all local field office staff and grantees.

Online URA Training

HUD has developed a [training](#) module on the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (URA). The URA provides protections and assistance for people affected by the acquisition, demolition, and rehabilitation of projects funded with federal resources. The module provides an introductory look at URA. HUD is working on several other URA training modules that will focus on the following areas: Section 104(d) overview, URA planning and budgeting, URA real property acquisition, URA residential relocation, URA nonresidential relocation, URA temporary relocation, and URA recordkeeping, monitoring, and corrective action.

NCDA NEWS

Winter Conference Registration is Open

Registration is now open for the 2019 NCDA Winter Conference. The conference will be held in Washington, DC on January 23-25. The registration fee is \$450 for members and \$550 for non-members during the early registration period which ends on November 30. The rates will increase after this date. Please go to the following link to register for the conference.

<https://ncdaonline.regfox.com/2019-winter-conference>

The draft conference agenda, which was based on a survey to members, is attached. The conference will feature a full day of free pre-conference training on January 22nd. The following pre-conference training courses will be offered.

- Advanced CDBG
- Advanced HOME
- Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Using CDBG

NCDA has reserved a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Capitol (550 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20024) at the NCDA group rate of \$194 per night plus tax. You can make your reservations by clicking on this [link](#) or by calling 1-877-572-6951 and referencing book code **NC8**.

Please contact Steve Gartrell at sgartrell@ncdaonline.org with questions regarding conference registration. Please contact Vicki Watson at vwatson@ncdaonline.org with questions regarding the agenda.

NCDA Training Schedule

NCDA is offering the following CDBG-related courses in the coming months. Please go [here](#) to obtain the brochure and registration information on each of the courses.

CDBG Subrecipient Management
Aurora, CO
October 3-5, 2018

Advanced CDBG: Managing an Effective Program/CDBG Underwriting (3 Days)
Duluth, MN
October 17-19, 2018

CDBG Subrecipient Management
Corpus Christi, TX
October 23-23, 2018
(held in conjunction with the NCDA Region VI Conference)

CDBG Basics: Training for Practitioners
Anaheim, CA
November 5-7, 2018

CDBG Basics: Training for Practitioners
Framingham, MA
November 7-9, 2018

HOME Basics Course
Newton, MA
December 12-14, 2018

Please contact Steve Gartrell at sgartrell@ncdaonline.org with any questions regarding the above training courses or if you would like to host a course in your community.

Save the Dates

NCDA Region I Fall Conference
Burlington, VT
October 11-12, 2018
[Agenda and Registration](#)

NCDA Region VI Conference
Corpus Christi, TX
October 22-26, 2018
[Agenda](#)

[Conference Registration Form](#)
[Pre-Conference Training Registration](#)

NCDA Region IV Conference
Birmingham, AL
November 6-9, 2018

[Agenda](#)
[Registration Form](#)

NCDA's Winter Legislative Meeting
Washington, DC
January 23-25, 2019

National Community Development Week
April 22-26, 2019

NCDA's 50th Annual Conference
Jacksonville, FL
June 19-22, 2019

Start Planning for National Community Development Week, April 22-26, 2019

National Community Development Week is designed to focus local as well as national attention on the CDBG and HOME programs. It provides an ideal opportunity to educate members of Congress and your community on CDBG and HOME and the importance of both programs to the community. NCDA has reached out to our national partners to participate jointly with NCDA and its members in National Community Development Week in 2019. These partner organizations include: U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, Council of State Community Development Agencies, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, National Association for County Community and Economic Development, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, National Association of Regional Councils, and the American Planning Association.

National Community Development Week is being held on April 22-26. It will occur during a critical time when Congress is making decisions about spending levels, so ensure you're a part of the conversation by hosting a National Community Development Week activity. Lawmakers will return to their states and districts for the week, giving you an opportunity to showcase the good work you do in your community using CDBG and HOME dollars. A few early actions can increase the possibility that your member of Congress, or their staff, will attend your event.

- First, before the end of the year, decide what type of event you'd like to hold. You don't need a fully planned event, but figure out who will participate, what is the size of the event, where and when is the event, what is the focus, will the Senator/Representative be asked to make remarks, and will there be media? If the date and time of your event is flexible, you may be able to work with staff to better fit in the Senator's or Representative's schedule.

- Second, contact offices in early January. You'll need to identify who handles scheduling for your legislator and what is required by the office to submit a formal invitation. Start by calling your closest local district office - phone numbers for district offices are available on the legislators' web sites at www.senate.gov and www.house.gov. Some offices schedule exclusively through their DC office, so you may need to make several calls before you get in contact with the appropriate staffer.
- Third, follow-up frequently. Schedulers are extremely busy and are constantly inundated with requests. If you are having trouble getting in touch with the person handling your request, leave messages with the office receptionist, too.
- Finally, don't get discouraged if members of Congress or their staff cannot attend your event. Work with the office on alternative ways they can participate - ask if can they issue a press release about your event, promote it on social media, or begin a scheduling request for a district work period later in the year. They may have other ideas on how they can participate, so be flexible.

Please contact Vicki Watson with any questions concerning National Community Development Week. NCDA is working on a planning guide that will be released soon.

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

<i>Program</i>	<i>FY18 Omnibus Spending Measure</i>	<i>President's FY19 Budget Proposal</i>	<i>House Approved FY19 Bill</i>	<i>Senate Approved FY19 Bill</i>
CDBG Formula Grants	\$3.3 billion	\$0	\$3.3 billion	\$3.3 billion
HOME Formula Grants	\$1.362 billion	\$0	\$1.2 billion	\$1.362 billion
Homeless Assistance Grants	\$2.513 billion	\$2.383 billion	\$2.571 billion	\$2.612 billion
Section 108	\$300 million	\$0	\$300 million	\$300 million
Choice Neighborhoods	\$150 million	\$0	\$150 million	\$100 million
HOPWA	\$375 million	\$330 million	\$393 million	\$375 million
Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction	\$230 million	\$145 million	\$230 million	\$260 million
Elderly Housing (Section 202)	\$678 million	\$563 million	\$632 million	\$678 million
Housing for Persons with Disabilities (811)	\$229.6 million	\$132 million	\$154 million	\$154 million
Housing Counseling	\$55 million	\$45 million	\$55 million	\$45 million
Housing Choice Vouchers	\$22.015 billion	\$20.550 billion	\$22.476 billion	\$22.781 billion
Project-Based Section 8	\$11.515 billion	\$11.147 billion	\$11.347 billion	\$11.747 billion
Public Housing Operating Fund	\$4.550 billion	\$2.975 billion	\$4.550 billion	\$4.756 billion
Public Housing Capital Fund	\$2.750 billion	\$0	\$2.750 billion	\$2.775 billion

Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD)	\$0**	\$100 million	\$0	\$0
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