



NCDAA Washington Report October 31, 2018

FY 2019 THUD Spending Still in Limbo - Contact Your Lawmakers Today to Support a Full-Year THUD Bill

Congress will return the week November 12 to continue work on finalizing FY 2019 funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and several other federal agencies without an approved spending bill. Prior to adjourning for the election recess, Congress approved a continuing resolution (CR) that provides FY 2018 funding levels through December 7.

There are several ways Congress could deal with FY 2019 appropriations, but regardless of the method, it is critical that a full-year Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill be approved before the end of this Congressional session. Please send the letter below to your lawmakers explaining the importance of passing a full year spending bill to your community.

Congress was able to move several spending bills before the fiscal year ended on September 30 but failed to pass a spending bill for HUD. As a result, HUD is currently operating under a CR. This is problematic for communities that rely on CDBG and HOME dollars because HUD cannot award funding until a full-year bill is in place, leaving communities to wonder what their CDBG and grant levels will be for the year and when they'll receive it.

When Congress returns to Washington in mid-November, it has several options to address the expiring CR. First, it could simply pass a full-year CR that would carry current spending levels forward through September 30, 2019. This option would maintain the increased funding levels for CDBG (\$3.3 billion) and HOME (\$1.362 billion). Second, it could assemble the remaining appropriations bills, including THUD, into a series of small spending packages, referred to as "mini-buses." Third, Congress could package all the remaining spending bills into one "omnibus" bill, as has been done in recent years. Finally, Congress could pass a short-term CR that would delay final spending decisions until the new Congress takes office in January. Irrespective of how Congress chooses to address FY 2019 spending, the passage of another short-term CR should be avoided and full-year spending decisions should be made before Congress adjourns. Your voice is critical to ensuring that Congress knows the importance of finalizing FY 2019 spending and not punting the decision to the next Congress. Below is a sample letter to send to your legislators. Please edit the letter to include local examples of the impact of delaying spending decisions and the good work that CDBG and HOME dollars do in your community.

Dear Representative/Senator,

As a member of the National Community Development Association, I urge you to finalize FY 2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) spending during this Congressional session and avoid funding the government through a series of short-term continuing resolutions (CRs) that would leave our community in budgetary limbo. The repeated failure of the appropriations process in recent years has demonstrated the burdens inflicted on communities by funding the government through a series of short-term CRs. Many grant programs, like the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, do not award grants until a final spending bill is in place, leaving many communities wondering what funding will be available to them and severely hampering project planning. Postponing spending decisions until the 116th Congress takes office will have a huge negative impact on our community. I rely on consistent, predictable CDBG and HOME dollars to do my job and our community relies on these grants for a wide variety of purposes. Please help ensure that our community will be able to utilize its FY 2019 CDBG and HOME dollars as soon as possible by finalizing THUD spending before the 115th Congress adjourns for the final time.

Thank you,

Please go to www.senate.gov and www.house.gov to locate Congressional contact information.

2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program

The 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) allows local governments, tribal organizations, councils of government and regional planning agencies the opportunity to review and update select statistical area boundaries that the U.S. Census Bureau uses to count people in communities. These boundaries allow the Census Bureau to collect and tabulate small-area statistics and spatial data for the 2020 Census and the American Community Survey. Data tabulated to PSAP geographies are used for planning and federal funding purposes, including calculating CDBG and HOME formula allocations for local governments.

Statistical geographies include:

- Census tracts
- Block groups
- Census designated places (CDPs)
- Census county divisions (CCDs), in selected states

Every area of the country is redrawing census tract boundaries, block groups, and CDPs for the 2020 Census. This is a once in a ten-year opportunity to define low- and moderate-income areas that may go unrecognized and underserved otherwise.

How can you participate?

The Census Bureau sent out invitations to local governments, tribal governments, councils of government and regional planning agencies in July 2018. Check with the person who is leading your community's 2020 Census for details. If your community did not receive an invitation, encourage your community's 2020 Census leader to reach out to the Census Bureau to participate.

Important Upcoming Dates

1. January 2019: PSAP participants receive materials to provide input on the 2020 PSAP plan for statistical boundaries.
2. January 2019: PSAP webinar training begins.

Go to the following link for the Census Bureau regional contacts.

<https://www.census.gov/about/regions.html>

HUD NEWS

New Director of the Office of Block Grant Assistance

Claudette Fernandez joined the CPD Team as the new Director of the Office of Block Grant Assistance on October 1. Claudette most recently served as the Chief Innovation Officer at USDA Rural Development where she managed strategic partnerships and regulation reform. She also served as Deputy Administrator for Business Programs at USDA; overseeing grants, revolving loan funds, and guaranteed loan funds. Prior to joining USDA, Claudette served as Senior Program Manager for FEMA where she managed multi-hazard grants and cooperative agreements in support of community preparedness and resilience. She has also served as Assistant Administrator for Water and Environmental Programs at USDA, leading a team to provide financing to over 30,000 rural water, wastewater, and solid-waste utilities to ensure access to clean drinking water in underserved communities.

NCDA will meet with Claudette this week. We look forward to working with her.

New Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program Fee

On October 5, HUD announced the FY 2019 fee to cover credit subsidy costs for the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program. The fee that will be charged for commitments issued in FY 2019 will be 2.23% which is down a bit from last year.

NCDA NEWS

NCDA 2018 Audrey Nelson Awards Application Now Open

The 2019 Audrey Nelson Awards competition is now open. We encourage members to apply for this prestigious award which recognizes outstanding community development projects and programs across the country. NCDA created the award 32 years ago in honor of NCDA's first Deputy Executive Secretary, Audrey Nelson, whose life was cut short by cancer at the age of 29. Audrey grew up in a low-income neighborhood in south Chicago that was a target area for the Model Cities Program, the precursor to the CDBG Program. NCDA is proud continue these awards in honor of Audrey. The awards application is attached. The application deadline is **December 12**. NCDA's Planning and Professional Development Subcommittee will select the five winners. Winners will be recognized during a special awards luncheon at the Winter Conference. Please contact Vicki Watson at vwatson@ncdaonline.org with any questions.

Results from the NCDA AFFH Survey to Members

NCDA recently surveyed its members on HUD's notice of advanced rulemaking on the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing regulations. On August 16, HUD issued an advanced notice of its intent to alter the regulations to:

- Minimize regulatory burden
- Create a process that is focused on results rather than a prolonged analysis of community characteristics
- Provide for greater local control and innovation
- Encourage actions that increase housing choice, including through greater housing supply
- More efficiently utilize HUD resources

NCDA received responses from 107 grantees representing all regions of the country. The respondents included a mix of small to large grantees; administering between \$310,000 and \$57 million in annual CDBG funds. The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Counties signed on to NCDA's letter to HUD. A copy of the letter is attached.

Survey Results:

- All grantees should take actions to solicit community participation and feedback in fulfilling their affirmatively furthering fair housing obligations. Grantees should be given the flexibility to decide what actions to take in soliciting community participation and feedback.
- The AFFH public input process should be included as part of the Consolidated Plan process, not a separate process.
- The existing data collection and analysis process must be streamlined to reduce burden and costs for *all* grantees.
- HUD needs to be flexible on data collection. HUD should provide a uniform data set for grantees to use but allow grantees the option to develop their own data set or use local data or the data of their choice to supplement or replace the HUD data set. HUD should continue to maintain its national database for those grantees with an approved AFH and to provide access to pre-established data sets for other grantees to use at their discretion.
- Grantees should continue reporting annually on AFFH actions and results in their annual action plan and CAPER.
- AFFH planning and/or results should be integrated into existing report structures such as the Con Plan and CAPER.
- Small grantees should follow the Analysis of Impediments (AI) process.
- HUD should provide financial incentives to encourage collaboration with PHAs.
- HUD should provide financial incentives to encourage regional collaboration.
- Jurisdictions must be given the utmost deference and flexibility to determine fair housing obstacles, goals, and metrics for measuring progress.
- The regulations should recognize the importance of investing in low-income neighborhoods.

Start Thinking Now About National Community Development Week

National Community Development Week might be six months away, but the time to start planning is now. During the week of April 22-26, 2019, NCDA and other community development partners nation-wide will celebrate National Community Development Week. To celebrate, NCDA asks members to publicly highlight the work they've done in their communities that has been assisted by CDBG and HOME funding. Projects can be showcased in a variety of different ways, for example: invite your local media and/or your Congressional delegation for a site visit, take a video or photos of your project and send them to your local media and Congressional delegation, write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper describing your project and the role CDBG/HOME played in developing it, schedule a meeting with your Congressional delegation to tell them about how important CDBG/HOME are to the community, or write a letter to your legislators about the impact of the programs.

As April approaches, NCDA will provide you with the tools and materials you need to launch your successful event. Your participation in National Community Development Week is particularly critical in 2019; Congress will see many new members in both the House and Senate. These newcomers will be making decisions about CDBG and HOME and their funding levels early next year. Highlighting the work you do with CDBG and HOME dollars in your community creates a tangible connection for lawmakers between the funding they appropriate for these programs and improvements to their states and districts. Events like National Community Development Week attract positive attention and publicity for CDBG and HOME, which when shared with your lawmakers, is instrumental in creating the next generation of CDBG and HOME champions on Capitol Hill.

NCDA is leading a collaborative national effort to invite national organizations represented by local elected officials, grantees, and subrecipients to participate in National Community Development Week. NCDA is in the process of developing a guidebook that will be shared by these organizations to promote National Community Development Week. To date, the following national organizations have agreed to add their logo to the guidebook and participate in National Community Development Week.

- U.S. Conference of Mayors
- National Association of Counties
- Council of State Community Development Agencies
- National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
- National Association for County Community and Economic Development
- National Association of Development Organizations
- National Association of Regional Councils
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership

NCDA Member Survey

We want to hear from you. Please take a few minutes to complete the NCDA Member Survey at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N3K7RYD>

The survey will help us improve existing member services and provide suggestions for new member benefits/services. The survey will remain open through November 23.

NCDA Winter Conference – January 23-25; Early Registration Ends on November 30

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 updated draft conference agenda 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 been approved as an AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) provider. Some of the sessions are qualified CM events. We will be adding sessions to the list as the agenda is finalized. These events will be marked with the following symbol (where the number equals the number of CM credits): **CM | 6**

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 calling 1-877-572-6951 and referencing book code **NC8**.

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

NCDA Training Schedule; 2019 Training RFP

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

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.

If you are interested in hosting an NCDA training course in your community, please review the attached RFP and complete the host training form by **December 7, 2018**. Please contact Rita Pribyl at rpribyl@ncdaonline.org with questions concerning the RFP.

Save the Dates

NCDA Region IV Conference
Birmingham, AL
November 6-9, 2018
[Agenda](#)
[Registration Form](#)

National Community Development Week
April 22-26, 2019

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

**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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