



NCDCA Washington Report November 30, 2018

Appropriations Update

The continuing resolution currently funding the federal government runs out next Friday, December 7. Seven spending bills, including the FY19 Transportation-HUD spending bill, remain in limbo waiting for final action by Congress and President Trump. The outlook is uncertain at this point. With only a limited number of legislative days until the 115th Congress officially ends on January 3, Congressional leaders are working behind the scenes to craft a deal that will satisfy the President's demand for \$5 billion for border wall funding. While the Senate Homeland Security spending bill includes this amount, the House Homeland Security spending bill provides a lesser amount of \$1.6 billion for border wall security.

If Congress is unable to reach agreement before the current continuing resolution expires, they will have to pass another continuing resolution or face a government shutdown. Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) indicated this week his preference for finalizing all of the spending bills before December 7, but that a short-term continuing resolution may be needed if negotiations are not wrapped-up by then. Negotiations on six of the seven bills are mostly complete, including THUD. The Homeland Security spending bill is the only measure holding up the process due to the continued negotiations on border wall funding.

Besides the spending bills, other items that need to be completed before the end of this Congressional session include: disaster relief for California, finalization of a farm bill, extension of the National Flood Insurance Program, and extension of a number of expiring tax provisions for the 2018 tax year.

Looking Ahead to the 116th Congress

The 116th Congressional session marks a return to a divided Congress. Democrats gained 40 seats in the mid-term elections to claim control of the House. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has been elected the House Majority Leader beating out a slew of newcomers who tried to wrest control of the position from her. Republicans continue to control the Senate with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) remaining at the helm. A divided Congress could be good or bad depending on whether Congressional leaders want to work together in a bi-partisan manner or continue the gridlock and acrimony of past years.

Committee Assignments

Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) is expected to be named Chair of the House Appropriations Committee with Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) serving as the Ranking Member, making for a historic all-female duo at the helm of this very powerful committee. Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) will continue to lead the Senate Appropriations Committee with Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) as Ranking Member.

Rep. David Price (D-NC) is expected to become the Chair of the House Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee and Rep. Mario Diaz Balart (R-FL) is likely to be named the Ranking Member. Both have supported CDBG and HOME in the past. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) is expected to remain as Chair of the Senate Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee with Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) remaining as Ranking Member. Senator Collins is an ardent supporter of CDBG.

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) will become Chair of the powerful House Financial Services Committee. She has signaled that she will focus on Republican actions to roll back the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver (D-MO) will Chair the House Housing and Insurance Subcommittee, which has responsibility for oversight of HUD. Rep. Cleaver's office has already reached out to NCDCA and we provided his staff with our legislative priorities, which include increasing the Davis-Bacon project thresholds, increasing the Section 3 recipient threshold, permanently eliminating the 24-month commitment deadline in HOME, eliminating the 15% CHDO set-aside in HOME, and eliminating the 60% cap in ESG that limits the amount of funds used for emergency shelter.

HUD NEWS

Neal Rackleff Departs HUD

Neal Rackleff, Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development (CPD), announced his departure this week from HUD. As the former Community Development Director of the City of Houston, TX, Neal understood the CPD programs firsthand and brought to the position a willingness to work with grantees to make the programs work better. NCDCA enjoyed working with him and we wish him well. David Woll, former Principle Deputy General Counsel for Enforcement in the Office of General Counsel, has been named the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for CPD and will replace Neal.

Secretary Carson Meets with NCDCA and Other National Groups

Secretary Carson held the first official Stakeholder HUDle this week inviting NCDCA, National Association of Counties, National Governors Association, National Alliance to End Homelessness, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, and LeadingAge to a meet and greet at HUD headquarters. This is an effort to increase communication between HUD and

stakeholders. Vicki Watson, NCDAs Executive Director, participated in the meeting and voiced to the Secretary the importance of the CDBG and HOME programs to local communities and disappointment of the continual elimination of both programs in the HUD budget. The Secretary is expected to hold future meetings that will focus more on specific policy initiatives and program changes.

Temporary Hold on Release of 2018 CDBG Funds

According to HUD, the processing of grant agreements and putting grantees' allocations in their line of credit has been temporarily held up. Under grant-based accounting, every year HUD has prior year funds to reallocate. HUD must now reallocate those funds proportionally to every grantee. But, with the changeover in fiscal year, HUD had to get the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to reapportion those prior year funds back to the accounting system so that HUD can obligate them. According to HUD, this process should be completed shortly – within the next couple of weeks – and then they will resume executing grant agreements.

HUD Releases Section 108 Information

This week HUD released [information](#) on existing Section 108 borrowing capacity for CDBG grantees. The calculations are based on the FY18 CDBG awards and grantees outstanding Section 108 commitments as of November 2018. HUD also published a [Federal Register Notice](#) announcing the Section 108 fee for FY2019.

NCDAs NEWS

Plan to Meet with Your Congressional Delegation During the NCDA Winter Conference

We encourage NCDA members to meet with their Congressional Members during the 2019 NCDA Winter Conference to educate them on the use of CDBG and HOME funds in their communities. Please see the attached conference agenda for specific times for Hill visits. Please reach out to other grantees in your state to coordinate the visits. To arrange a meeting, please contact your Congressional Member's scheduler at the following links.

House of Representatives: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>
U.S. Senate: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact>

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. We will be seeking increased funding for CDBG and HOME in FY 2020 and your participation in National Community Development Week helps in our efforts.

Although spending for the current fiscal year is not yet set, preparations for FY 2020 are well underway. National Community Development Week 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.

In late January, the President will begin the conversation of FY 2020 with his State of the Union Address that will set the tone for his policy agenda in the upcoming year. This agenda will be further detailed in his budget proposal, which will be released in February. When his budget proposal is released, Congress will begin holding hearings with Department Secretaries and start the process of drafting and reviewing appropriations bills.

This year, National Community Development Week is being held on April 22-26, 2019. 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 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 most local district office - phone numbers for district offices are available on the legislators' web sites. 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. Make sure yours gets the proper attention by contacting the scheduler frequently- initially twice a week but increase that to daily in the two weeks leading up to the event if you still have not received an answer. Make sure you ask the staffer handling your request what the best way to get in touch with him/her is and use those communication methods. 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.

Save the Date for NCDA's 50th Anniversary Conference – Honoring Our Past, Transforming Our Future; Invitation to Sponsor

NCDA will mark its 50th anniversary during the 2019 Annual Conference and we want you to be part of the celebration. The conference will be held in Jacksonville, FL on June 19-22. Hotel information will be available soon. The conference will provide the opportunity for NCDA to celebrate its past, focus on the present and look to the future. For this special celebration we are offering a low-cost sponsorship opportunity for NCDA members. For a nominal fee of \$100, members can add their agency logo to the conference program and support NCDA in its 50th anniversary celebration. The sponsorship form is attached. Simply complete the form and e-mail it to vwatson@ncdaonline.org and michael@ncdaonline.org.

NCDA 2018 Audrey Nelson Awards Application

NCDA created this 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. We encourage members to apply for this prestigious award which recognizes outstanding community development projects and programs across the country. 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.

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 **December 14**.

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

NCDA's 2019 Winter Conference will be held in Washington, DC on January 23-25, 2019. The registration fee is \$450 for members and \$550 for non-members during the early registration period which ends today, 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 rate of \$179 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.

RFP to Host NCDA's 2020 Annual Conference

NCDA is seeking proposals from its members to host the 2020 Annual Conference. Recent annual conferences have been held in Los Angeles County/Long Beach, CA, Miami, FL, Franklin County, OH, Milwaukee, WI, Arlington, TX, among others. The annual conference consistently draws over 250 community development and affordable housing professionals from across the country and provides the opportunity for you to showcase your community, particularly your CDBG and HOME programs.

If you are interested in hosting the 2020 Annual Conference, please review the attached RFP for full details on the requirements. Please submit your proposal by **December 14** to sgartrell@ncdaonline.org.

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.

HOME Basics Course

Newton, MA

December 12-14, 2018

HOME Basics Course

Anaheim, CA

March 4-6, 2019

CDBG Basics: Training for Practitioners

Sacramento, CA

February 12-14, 2019

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.

**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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