



## **NCDA Washington Report**

### **December 2, 2020**

#### **FY21 Appropriations Bills; Continuing Resolution; Coronavirus Relief**

The Senate Appropriations Committee released all twelve of its FY21 spending measures on November 10, 2020. Normally, the Senate Appropriations Committee would have released its spending bills in late spring, but Committee members failed to reach agreement on the terms of debate, so the bills have languished for months.

The FY21 Senate Transportation-HUD (THUD) spending bill provides modest increases for CDBG, HOME, and HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants despite strict budget caps required by the Budget Control Act. The measure provides \$3.455 billion for the Community Development Fund which includes \$3.425 billion for the CDBG Program, an increase of \$25 million, and \$30 million for grants to states to enable communities to assist individuals recovering from substance use disorders. The measure also provides \$300 million (level funding) for the Section 108 loan guarantee program. The program enables CDBG grantees to use their CDBG dollars to leverage financing for economic development projects, community facilities, and housing rehabilitation programs.

The Senate THUD bill includes \$1.375 billion, an increase of \$25 million, for the HOME program to assist grantees expand the supply of affordable housing. The measure includes \$2.951 billion for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants which includes \$2.524 billion for the Continuum of Care Program and \$290 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant Program. The measure also provides \$410 million for HOPWA grants to state and local governments to devise long-term, comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing and supportive service needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

The measure also includes \$22.891 billion for Section 8 tenant-based voucher renewals including \$40 million for new HUD-VASH vouchers to help reduce veterans' homelessness. The bill also includes \$12.653 billion for Project-Based Section 8 contract renewals.

The measure consolidates the Public Housing Operating Fund and Public Housing Capital Fund into a single Public Housing Fund funded at \$7.440 billion. Of this amount, \$4.492 billion is provided to PHAs for operating expenses and \$2.765 billion for allocations to PHAs for capital expenses.

The bill includes \$100 million for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative which provides competitive grants to transform distressed neighborhoods. At least \$50 million must be awarded to projects where PHAs are the lead applicant and no more than \$5 million can be used for planning grants. The Committee directs HUD to give priority consideration for implementation grants to grantees that have previously

received planning grants. Please see the NCDHHS HUD Budget Chart at the end of this newsletter for more program funding information.

Prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, President Trump signaled his support for a FY21 omnibus appropriations measure which lumps all 12 spending measures into a single bill. Congress is continuing to negotiate the differences in the Senate and House spending measures. If Congress is unable to reach agreement on the omnibus spending measure by December 11, they will need to pass legislation to keep the federal government funded after the current continuing resolution expires on December 11.

There has been no breakthrough on an additional coronavirus relief package, but there is a possibility that coronavirus aid may be attached to the omnibus spending measure or continuing resolution. A bipartisan group of lawmakers banded together to craft a \$908 billion coronavirus aid package that they unveiled today. The proposal is a middle ground between the \$519 billion sought by Senate Republicans and the \$2.4 trillion sought by House Democrats. The proposal includes the following aid.

- \$288 billion for small business relief
- \$180 billion for expanded unemployment insurance benefits that would provide an extra \$300 per week for 18 weeks
- \$160 billion for state and local government fiscal relief
- \$82 billion for public schools
- \$45 billion for the transportation industry (airlines, transit, buses, Amtrak)
- \$16 billion for vaccine development and distribution
- \$26 billion for nutrition and agriculture aid
- \$10 billion for the U.S. Postal Service
- \$25 billion for rental assistance
- \$35 billion for aid to hospitals
- \$4 billion for student loan forgiveness
- \$10 billion for childcare assistance

The bipartisan lawmakers hope the proposal will spur Congressional leaders to compromise on a final stimulus package before they leave town for the Christmas holiday.

### **Key COVID-19 Programs Set to Expire on December 31**

Several important federal programs that provide relief to people impacted by the coronavirus pandemic are set to expire on December 31. Extensions of some of these items will likely be included in the FY21 omnibus spending measure or continuing resolution.

- The national eviction moratorium will expire on December 31. The moratorium bans most residential evictions through the end of the year. Between 30 and 40 million Americans could be at risk of eviction if the moratorium is not extended. The National Low Income Housing Coalition is leading a [sign-on letter](#) urging the CDC to extend the moratorium through March 2021. NCDHHS has signed on to the letter and we encourage you to sign on, too.
- Federal unemployment assistance will expire on December 31. This includes the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, which provides benefits to gig workers, self-employed and other people not eligible for traditional state benefits and the Pandemic Emergency

Unemployment Compensation program which provides an extra 13 weeks of benefits to people who exhaust their state benefits. According to the Labor Department, nearly 14 million people are enrolled in these programs.

- Forbearance on federal student loans will end on December 31.
- Penalty-free early withdrawals (up to \$100,000 for valid reason related to COVID-19) from 401(k)s, IRAs, and other eligible retirement accounts will end on December 31.
- Tax credits for businesses to cover paid employee sick and family leave for reasons related to COVID-19 will end on December 31.

President-Elect Biden and other leaders have called on Congress to pass legislation protecting these programs in the near term.

#### **FDIC to Create New Mission-Driven Bank Fund**

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is seeking investors to support the development of a [Mission-Driven Bank Fund](#) to provide philanthropic and private investment in FDIC-insured Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). MDIs are banking institutions that commit a larger portion of their portfolios to minority, lower-income and rural communities compared to mainstream banks. The Mission-Driven Bank Fund will help MDIs and CDFIs raise capital to serve their communities, build capacity and scale to achieve cost efficiencies, and attract technical expertise to grow their operations and expand their services.

#### **HEROS Resources**

HUD has developed the following quick reference guides for the HUD Environmental Review Online System (HEROS) to help grantees better understand and navigate the system.

- Completing a HEROS Access Form Request
- Environmental Review Troubleshooting and Best Practices
- HEROS Assigning Reviews
- Completing a Request for Release of Funds/Authority to Use Grant Funds for Part 58 Reviews
- Setting up a Broad-level Tiered Environmental Review
- Completing a CEST Broad-level Tiered Environmental Review

Please go [here](#) to view the guides.

#### **CDBG-CV Duplication of Benefits Resources**

CDBG-CV grantees are required to conduct a duplication of benefits review for each CDBG-CV eligible activity. HUD has developed the following resources to help CDBG-CV grantees prevent duplication of benefits.

##### [CDBG-CV Duplication of Benefits Quick Guide](#)

*This guide helps grantees determine duplication of benefits using examples.*

[CARES Act Programs through SBA, FEMA, IRS, Treasury, USDA, and HHS](#)

*The table summarizes other federal coronavirus-related resources (primarily those funded under the CARES Act).*

[Memo: CDBG Coronavirus Grantee Resources to Prevent Duplication of Benefits](#)

*This official HUD memorandum provides background information on the federal law that forms the basis for HUD's duplication of benefits policy.*

### **John A. Sasso Memorial Scholarship**

NCDA is pleased to announce the establishment of the John A. Sasso Memorial Scholarship in memory of NCDA's founder, John A. Sasso. The scholarship was established to enhance the educational and professional development of NCDA members relatively new to the housing and community development field.

*Who is eligible?*

- Applicants must be an employee of and sponsored by an NCDA member organization.
- NCDA member organizations are limited to two scholarships in total.
- Applicants must plan to attend a training offered by NCDA on a tuition reimbursement basis or attend a national or regional NCDA conference.
- Applicants must have five years or less work experience in housing/community development.

Apply online [here](#). Please contact Vicki Watson at [vwatson@ncdaonline.org](mailto:vwatson@ncdaonline.org) with any questions.

### **NCDA 2021 Audrey Nelson Community Development Awards**

The 2021 Audrey Nelson Community Development 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 34 years ago in honor of NCDA's first Deputy Executive Secretary, Audrey Nelson. Audrey was the first Deputy Executive Secretary of NCDA. She grew up in an inner-city Chicago neighborhood which was a target area for the local Model Cities Program, a precursor to the CDBG program. Her intense commitment to her neighborhood, her local program efforts, and her drive to serve low-income people was cut short by death from cancer at the age of 29. NCDA is proud continue these awards in honor of Audrey. The award application is available at the following link.

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

The application deadline is **December 16, 2020**. NCDA's Planning and Professional Development Subcommittee will rate and rank the applications. The five highest ranked applications will receive the award. Winners will be recognized on January 29, 2021, during the NCDA Virtual Winter Conference. Please contact Vicki Watson at [vwatson@ncdaonline.org](mailto:vwatson@ncdaonline.org) with any questions.

### **NCDA 2021 Virtual Winter Conference – January 27-29, 2021**

[Registration](#) is now open for NCDA's 2021 Virtual Winter Conference. The Conference will be held online on January 27-29, 2021. The agenda is available [here](#).

### **NCDA Training and Webinars**

NCDA is pleased to offer the following online training and webinars.

#### ***CDBG Primer – On Demand***

This training covers the fundamentals of the CDBG program. View the course at your convenience.

Registration fee: \$50 members/\$100 non-members

Register [here](#)

#### ***Subrecipient Management Primer – On Demand***

This training is a condensed version of NCDA's three-day Managing Subrecipients Course. View the course at your convenience.

Registration fee: \$50 member/\$100 non-members

Register [here](#)

#### ***IDIS Primer – On Demand***

This training provides an overview of IDIS for CDBG grantees and HOME participating jurisdictions. View the course at your convenience.

Registration fee: \$50 members/\$100 non-members

Register [here](#)

#### ***HOME Primer – On Demand (coming soon)***

#### ***CD Software Programs Webinar (for members only – free)***

January 6, 2021 – 2 pm ET

NCDA members will discuss their use of various planning and management software

Register [here](#)

#### ***CD Software Programs II Webinar (for members only – free)***

January 13, 2021 – 2 pm ET

2021 Winter Conference sponsors will present their software for use in planning and managing affordable housing and community development programs.

Register [here](#)

Please contact Steve at [sgartrell@ncdaonline.org](mailto:sgartrell@ncdaonline.org) with any questions.

#### **NCDA is Collecting CDBG and HOME Stories of Impact**

To promote our core programs – CDBG and HOME, NCDA is collecting stories of impact. The stories will be used in our efforts to promote the programs with Congress and the Administration in the coming year. Please use the following link to share your story of impact.

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

Please contact Vicki Watson at [vwatson@ncdaonline.org](mailto:vwatson@ncdaonline.org) with any questions.

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

<b><i>Program</i></b>	<b><i>FY20 Omnibus Spending Measure (12/23/2019)</i></b>	<b><i>President's FY21 Budget Proposal (2/10/2020)</i></b>	<b><i>House FY21 THUD Bill (7/31/2020)</i></b>	<b><i>Senate Appropriations Committee (11/10/2020)</i></b>
CDBG Formula Grants	\$3.4 billion	\$0	\$3.5 billion	\$3.425 billion
HOME Formula Grants	\$1.35 billion	\$0	\$1.7 billion	\$1.375 billion
Homeless Assistance Grants	\$2.777 billion	\$2.773 billion	\$3.415 billion	\$2.951 billion
Section 108	\$300 million	\$0	\$300 million	\$300 million
Choice Neighborhoods	\$175 million	\$0	\$250 million	\$100 million
HOPWA	\$410 million	\$330 million	\$430 million	\$410 million
Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction	\$290 million	\$360 million	\$340 million	\$360 million
Elderly Housing (Section 202)	\$793 million	\$853 million	\$893 million	\$853 million
Housing for Persons with Disabilities (811)	\$202 million	\$252 million	\$227 million	\$237 million
Housing Choice Vouchers (Tenant-Based Rental Assistance)	\$21.5 billion	\$18.8 billion	\$25.7 billion	\$22.891 billion
Project-Based Rental Assistance	\$12.170 billion	\$12.6 billion	\$13.4 billion	\$12.653 billion
Public Housing Operating Fund	\$4.549 billion	\$3.6 billion	\$4.649 billion	\$4.492 billion

Public Housing Capital Fund	\$2.869 billion	\$0	\$3.18 billion	\$2.765 billion
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