



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS 2009 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PROMOTING REGIONAL APPROACHES TO ADVANCING AMERICA'S LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The members of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) support federal programs and policies that encourage regional collaboration to improve the economic competitiveness and quality of life in America's local communities. This includes building upon the proven track record of the nation's 520 regional development organizations in fostering regional collaboration among local elected officials, leveraging limited public resources to develop and sustain the fundamental building blocks for economic competitiveness, and implementing a broad portfolio of federal and state programs on a regional basis.

As multi-jurisdictional public entities governed by local elected officials, along with private sector and community representatives, the nation's regional development organizations serve as key catalysts for strategic planning, public-private partnerships and regional initiatives that are designed to meet locally-identified community and economic development priorities. Historically, our efforts have focused on public infrastructure improvements, business development finance lending, comprehensive economic development strategies, transportation planning and other initiatives aimed at promoting local job creation and wealth generation activities.

In recent years, public sector leaders at all levels of government have turned to our regional entities to deliver, manage and coordinate an increasingly diverse portfolio, including: aging services, homeland security and emergency preparedness, brownfields redevelopment, Geographic Information System (GIS) services, public transportation and workforce development programs. This trend reflects the fact that regional development organizations are publicly accountable, achieve measurable results and provide efficient and high-quality services.

For the 111th Congress, the members of NADO place a priority on increasing intergovernmental cooperation among all levels of government, retaining and building upon the existing set of federal assistance programs, and enhancing the planning and implementation of federal programs on a sub-state regional basis. Specifically, these priorities include:

- **Community and Economic Development** — Fully fund the existing portfolio of federal community and economic development programs, most notably the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, SBA's business lending programs, federal-state regional commissions and USDA Rural Development's portfolio of grant and loan programs.
- **Homeland Security Coordination and Preparedness** — Support enhanced federal guidelines, resources and incentives that build upon the experience and skills of regional development organizations to coordinate, plan and foster homeland security and emergency preparedness activities on a statewide and regional basis.
- **Rural Development** — Promote the expansion of resources, flexibility and innovation within the USDA Rural Development mission area, including regionally-based initiatives to promote rural economic development, entrepreneurship, broadband and technology deployment, infrastructure upgrades and business development finance assistance.
- **Transportation** — Provide enhanced and sustainable funding for the nation's aviation, highway and transit needs as part of the reauthorization bills for SAFETEA-LU and AIR-21. In addition, support the full implementation of the January 2003 federal rules requiring an enhanced role for rural local officials and regional development organizations in the statewide transportation planning and programming processes.

ADVOCACY, NETWORKING, RESEARCH AND TRAINING FOR THE NATION'S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS
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ECONOMIC, COMMUNITY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Reauthorize and fully fund the Economic Development Administration (EDA), with a minimum of \$34 million for planning.
- Fully fund USDA rural development grant programs for infrastructure improvements, business development, community facilities, housing and broadband services.
- Urge members of the House to actively participate in the Congressional Rural Caucus, a bipartisan group dedicated to supporting federal policies and initiatives that improve the economic and social development of small town and rural America.
- Urge the U.S. Census Bureau to work with regions to ensure the participation of local governments and the collection of accurate data under the 2010 decennial census and the American Community Survey program.
- Fully fund EPA's brownfields cleanup and assessment programs and support the limited use of brownfields project funds for administrative costs.
- Support full funding for federal initiatives that assist state and local governments (including regional development organizations) in improving water and wastewater infrastructure systems. In addition, urge Congress to fund the new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) at the authorized level.
- Expand the eligibility criteria for Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) program to include public entities such as regional development organizations.
- Maintain SBA's 504 Development Company program and support full funding for Microloan lending and technical assistance programs.
- Oppose any federal tax measures on electronic commerce that reduce state and local government authority and revenue. Support policies to promote affordable, advanced and accessible telecommunications and broadband services in underserved and rural areas.

FEDERAL-STATE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

- Support full funding for the Northern Border Regional Commission, Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, Southwest Border Regional Commission and the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. In addition, support the use of existing regional planning and development districts as the local development districts for these new federal-state regional commissions.
- Fully fund the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and Denali Commission at the authorized levels, including support for the ARC and DRA local development districts.

HOMELAND & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Ensure small metropolitan and rural regions receive adequate resources and equitable access to the broad portfolio of homeland security and emergency preparedness programs, including first responder, pre-disaster mitigation and all-hazards mitigation resources. In addition, fully fund FEMA's flood map modernization and pre-disaster mitigation programs.

SOCIAL SERVICES & WORKFORCE

- Maintain full funding and program flexibility for HHS Area Agencies on Aging. Encourage the continued and expanded use of regional development organizations as the administrators and coordinators of workforce development programs.

TRANSPORTATION

- Fully fund federal aviation programs that help maintain and enhance regular air service to underserved and rural regions, including FAA's Airport Improvement Program, Essential Air Service program and the Small Communities Air Service program.
- Support programs and policies aimed at strengthening intermodal and multimodal transportation options, including aviation, inland ports, public transportation and short line railroads.



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