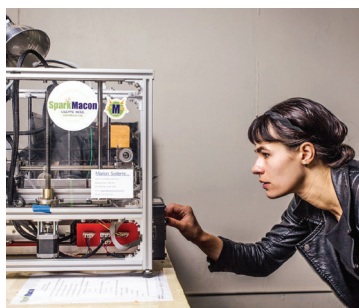


The members of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) support federal initiatives that encourage regional approaches to improving the economic conditions and quality of life in America's small and rural communities.

The nation's regional development organizations (RDOs) serve as a catalyst for strategic planning, public-private partnerships, and regional initiatives that are designed to meet locally-identified priorities and needs. NADO's efforts focus on public infrastructure improvements, comprehensive economic development planning, transportation planning, business development finance services, and other traditional building blocks that promote regional development and economic growth.

For the 115th Congress, NADO will place a priority on increasing member advocacy with congressional representatives on key policies, strengthening economic growth initiatives, and enhancing the delivery of services at all levels of government. To this end, NADO will assist its membership in establishing and maintaining long-term relationships with members of Congress and their staffs; highlighting successful rural economic and community development projects in regions across the nation; and providing NADO members with relevant and timely legislative resources to advance advocacy efforts. *NADO's 2017 legislative priorities include:*



## Economic Development

- Reauthorize the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) with an emphasis on public works and planning grants, especially in distressed rural communities.
- Support legislative changes to localize control of EDA Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) to end burdensome reporting requirements on RLF recipients.
- Maintain SBA's 504 Certified Development Company microloan lending and technical assistance program.
- Support authorized funding levels set by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and continued support of locally driven Workforce Investment Boards with enhanced regional coordination service delivery.

## Community Development

- Promote full funding for flexible, locally driven community development through HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and HOME Investment Partnerships Program.
- Maintain full funding and program flexibility for HHS Area Agencies on Aging.
- Support EPA's brownfields cleanup and assessment programs and support the recovery of administration costs consistent with other federal programs.
- Support federal initiatives to assist state and local governments and regional development organizations in planning, developing, and maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure systems.
- Promote affordable, advanced, and accessible telecommunications and broadband services in underserved and rural areas.



## Rural Development

- Support USDA rural development grant programs for infrastructure improvements, business development, community facilities, housing, and broadband services, and their regional setaside initiative.
- Support reauthorization of the 2014 farm bill with an enhanced emphasis on strategic regional-based economic and community development priorities.



## Federal-State Commissions

- Support funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Delta Regional Authority (DRA), Denali Commission, and Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) at authorized levels, including support for ARC and DRA local development districts.
- Support full funding for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, Southwest Border Regional Commission, and the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority as authorized in the 2014 farm bill. In addition, support the use of existing regional planning and development organizations as the local development districts for these new federal-state regional commissions.



## Transportation

- Work to strengthen the role of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) in the transportation planning process, building upon provisions enacted in MAP-21 and continued under the FAST Act.
- Support efforts to shore up the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.
- Support programs and policies to plan, coordinate, rehabilitate, and maintain public transportation and non-motorized transportation, short line railroad, and road safety improvements that benefit underserved and rural regions.
- Maintain and enhance regular air service to underserved and rural regions through the FAA's Airport Improvement Program, Essential Air Service, and the Small Communities Air Service Development Program.



## Homeland & Emergency Preparedness

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

For detailed legislative fact sheets on many of these topic areas, please visit [nado.org/advocacy](http://nado.org/advocacy).