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 rural and small metropolitan 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. **NADO’s 2018 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
- Prioritize long-term economic sustainability in post-disaster recovery efforts
- 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 robust 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

### Infrastructure

- Support programs and policies to plan, coordinate, rehabilitate, and maintain highway, public transportation, 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
• Support USDA rural development grant and loan programs for infrastructure improvements, business development, community facilities, housing, and broadband services, and their regional set-aside initiative
• Support reauthorization of the farm bill with an enhanced emphasis on strategic region-based economic and community development priorities

Rural Development

• Support funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Delta Regional Authority (DRA), Denali Commission, Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), and other federal-state regional commissions at authorized levels, including support for ARC and DRA local development districts
• Support reauthorization of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, Delta Regional Authority, Southwest Border Regional Commission, and Northern Great Plains Regional Authority in the next Farm Bill

Federal-State Commissions

• 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 the application of new and emerging technologies in transportation to improve safety and mobility in rural and small metropolitan communities

Transportation

• 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.