



## **Reauthorization of Farm Bill Legislation in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress**

NADO supports the enactment of a robust and comprehensive Rural Development Title in reauthorization of the Farm Bill. Rural development programs that enhance rural economies, improve the quality of life, and create jobs should be elevated and emphasized in the next Farm Bill.

**NADO and its member organizations support mandatory funding for USDA Rural Development's portfolio of grants and loan programs designed to foster regional economic development and develop infrastructure:**

- Intermediary Relending Programs
- Rural Business Development Grants
- Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program
- Water/Wastewater Programs
- Community Facility Loans and Grants

**NADO and its member organizations support reauthorization of federal-state economic development commissions that work to address the community and economic development needs of the most severely distressed regions of the United States:**

- Delta Regional Authority
- Northern Border Regional Commission
- Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

**NADO and its member organizations support streamlined and broadened USDA Rural Development applications, policies, and reporting requirements to reflect the scale of rural investments, emerging needs and opportunities of rural regions, and capacity of local organizations.** Congress should ensure USDA Rural Development has a modern set of policies, programs, and incentives to help rural communities pursue regionally-based, locally-driven community and economic development strategies.

**NADO and its member organizations support efforts to encourage regional approaches to rural development through the Strategic Economic and Community Development Program.** Established in the 2014 Farm Bill, this initiative allows USDA Rural Development to give priority to projects that support the implementation of regional economic development plans. Regionally focused projects enable wealth creation in rural areas and better leverage federal, state, local, and private funding resources. NADO and its members support the retention and expansion of this program in the next Farm Bill.

**NADO and its members places a high priority on increasing intergovernmental cooperation among all levels of government, while retaining and coordinating the existing set of rural development programs.** NADO promotes flexibility within the USDA Rural Development mission area to foster regional innovation and development, entrepreneurship, deployment of broadband and advanced technologies, infrastructure upgrades, and resources for business development finance assistance.