



RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Helping RDOs Build Their Capacity

Launched in 1988, the NADO Research Foundation provides education, research, and training designed for RDO executive leadership, staff, and policy board members. The Research Foundation examines new and innovative practices in regional development, strives to improve the organizational and professional capacity of regional development organizations and their partners, and bridges the communications gaps between policymakers, practitioners and the public.

As a 501(c)(3) entity, the Research Foundation is funded through grants and contracts to provide NADO members and other regional development stakeholders opportunities to:

- **Participate in exchanges** that foster an environment for peer learning, information exchange and solution sharing.
- **Build their professional development skills** by attending conferences and workshops crafted to meet their unique needs and situations.
- **Learn about best and most promising practices** of regional development.
- **Inform various audiences** of the important and impactful work RDOs are doing in their communities.



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Interested in joining NADO? Visit nado.org/about/member-services



PROMOTING THE NATION'S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING



Advocating for RDOs on Capitol Hill

Since 1967, NADO has advocated for the nation's network of more than 500 regional development organizations (RDOs) on Capitol Hill and across federal agencies. The association and its members promote regional strategies, partnerships, and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life across America's local communities.

What is a Regional Development Organization?

Regional Development Organizations (RDOs) are multijurisdictional, public-based regional planning and development organizations. With over 500 across the nation, these public-sector entities are governed by a regional policy board with majority control by local elected officials. As mandated by various federal programs, RDO boards may also include business, nonprofit, education and community leaders. RDOs are known as:

- Councils of Governments
- Area Development Districts
- Economic Development Districts
- Economic Development Councils
- Regional Development Commissions
- Regional Planning Commissions
- Regional Councils
- Planning and Development Districts
- Association of Governments
- Local Development Districts
- Regional Commissions



NADO and the NADO Research Foundation Help RDOs:

As a public interest group membership organization, NADO's legislative and advocacy team is structured to:

- **Engage in a coordinated advocacy campaign** that brings the RDO voice to the halls of Congress as well as into the offices of federal agencies to make sure the needs of their regions are considered in the federal budget and as policy is developed and implemented.
- **Provide in-depth analyses** of federal legislation that has a direct bearing upon the ability of RDOs to provide services to communities in their regions.
- **Educate Members of Congress and their staff** about the positive impact of federally-funded programs administered by RDOs in their congressional districts.
- **Inform NADO members** about key policy and legislative actions that effect their programs and services.

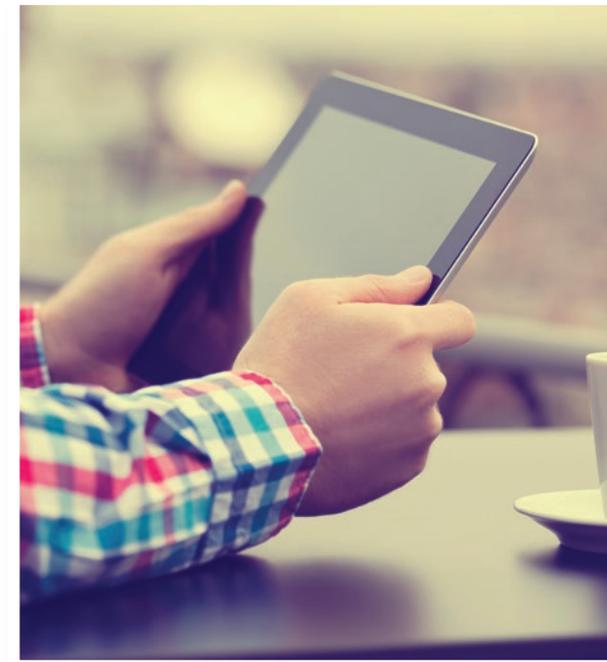
Turn ideas into action: NADO is the convener and the facilitator; our members are the experts. Their lessons and experiences fuel innovation that helps build strong, viable, and robust communities and regions.



Overcome challenges presented to regions and communities in transition: Partnering with other national organizations and federal agencies, we have provided training and technical assistance to communities impacted by the downturn in the coal economy, rebuilding after catastrophic weather events, and seeking solutions to economic challenges.



Receive the very best peer training: Through real world classrooms that showcase replicable programs and measurable outcomes, peer-to-peer learning exchange formats built on the knowledge and experience of NADO members, and roll-up-your-sleeves training workshops are critical elements of our work to provide RDO staff and their boards the absolute best training, network, and professional development opportunities available.



Stay informed: We deliver relevant and timely information to our members through a weekly e-newsletter, a timely website, special legislative reports, best practice issue briefs and case studies, webinars, as well as professional and organizational development resources. And, follow us on social media (facebook.com/nado.org and @NADOWeb) for up to the minute information!



Have access to lawmakers: Located on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., NADO works directly with policymakers to advance regional strategies and partnerships that address community and economic development needs. During NADO's annual Washington Policy Conference, attendees hear from members of Congress and leading federal agency staff. They also participate in NADO on the Hill, an afternoon of visits to congressional offices to share their successes and talk about the importance of federal programs.

Annual NADO Conferences and Events:



Washington Policy Conference: NADO on the Hill



NADO Annual Training Conference

Please visit NADO.org/events to learn more about these conferences and other events that we host throughout the year.