

**March 27, 2020**



## **IMPORTANT COVID-19 UPDATES**

### **NADO Successfully Advocates for More than \$1 Billion in Funding for EDA in COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Bill**

This week, the Senate and House passed an economic stimulus bill ([H.R. 748](#)) **which includes \$1.5 billion in supplemental funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA)**. This supplemental funding is intended to help mitigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. This bill is the third tranche of funding passed in response to COVID-19, following the passage of [HR 6074](#) and [HR 6201](#). NADO and partner organizations successfully advocated for the inclusion of supplemental funding for EDA in the third COVID-19 stimulus bill. The legislation was signed by the President this afternoon. In the coming days, NADO will be soliciting input from NADO members -- and providing your feedback to EDA leadership -- on how this funding can best be implemented to help the urgent needs your communities are facing. A summary of the funding breakdown in the bill can be found [here](#).

In addition to the supplemental funding for EDA, the bill also includes additional funding for the following priorities that may be of interest to NADO members:

- **USDA Rural Development**
  - \$25 million to support Distance Learning and Telemedicine
  - \$100 million for the ReConnect Program to help ensure rural Americans have access to broadband
  - \$20.5 million to support \$1 billion in Business and Industry loans
- **Small Business Administration (SBA)**
  - Provides \$562 million to ensure that SBA has the resources to provide Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) to businesses that need financial support during this difficult time
  - \$10 billion in direct grants to businesses that do not qualify for the EIDL program
  - \$17 billion to have SBA step in and make six months of principle and interest payments for all SBA backed business loans
- **Department of Transportation - Transit Systems**

- \$25 billion for public transit operators to protect public health and safety while ensuring transportation access to jobs, medical treatment, food, and other essential services remain available during the COVID-19 response
- HHS Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)
  - \$275 million for HRSA, including \$185 million to support rural critical access hospitals and rural and tribal health and telehealth programs
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Disaster Relief Fund
  - \$45 billion to provide the immediate needs of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to protect citizens and help them recover from the overwhelming effects of COVID-19
- Department of Labor (DOL)
  - \$360 million for DOL to invest in programs that provide training and supportive services for dislocated workers, seniors, migrant farmworkers, and homeless veterans
- HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
  - \$5 billion to allow states, counties, and cities to respond rapidly to COVID-19 and the economic and housing impacts caused by it



## **RDO COVID-19 Resource Center**



### **Visit NADO's RDO COVID-19 Resource Center for the Latest Information to Support Your Regional Efforts**

NADO has created an [RDO COVID-19 Resource Center](#) website to provide advocacy updates and share resources relevant to RDOs during this challenging time. The site was designed to keep members up to date with the latest information relevant to RDOs and to provide links to other resources and materials that may be valuable as you respond to the needs of your communities. The site is updated near-daily with new information, resources, and learning opportunities so please continue to check back often. Some of the latest information and training resources posted this week include:

- *State-by-State Actions/Essential vs. Non-Essential Workforce Guidance:* [Kaiser Family Foundation State Actions](#) | [National Governors Association State Tracking Chart](#) | [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#)
- *Upcoming Training Events:* [Brookings Institution webinar on unemployment insurance and COVID-19 \(April 1\)](#) | [SaveYour.Town conference call on small business support \(April 15\)](#)
- *Philanthropic Resources:* [GrantStation List of Funding Opportunity](#) | [Facebook Small Business Grants Program](#) & [Business Resource Hub](#) | [Bank of America Community Support](#) | [JPMorganChase Philanthropic Effort](#) |

- [Appalachian Regional Commission Mapping Tools](#)
- [OMB Guidance to Federal Grantor Agencies](#)

If you have resources that you think would be beneficial to add to the page, please contact Brett Schwartz at [bschwartz@nado.org](mailto:bschwartz@nado.org). Click [here](#) to access the RDO COVID-19 Resource Center.

## **NADO Members Share How They Continue to Provide Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

On Friday March 20, 2020, NADO members were asked to participate in a brief survey to help us understand how your organizations are serving your regions during the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate all the responses that NADO members have provided, especially given the many challenges you are faced with at this time. The information members have provided is being used by our staff to create content and resources to share with members as well as inform our advocacy efforts. At this time, we have received 59 responses, which accounts for 16% of NADO members. As promised, we want to share a summary of the responses.

With regard to **how NADO members are responding to the immediate needs of communities**, many that have RLFs said they are looking at ways to help small businesses, including allowing deferred payments for up to 6 months, looking into lowering interest payments, and creating emergency loan funds. Many members are getting information out to stakeholders via dedicated resource pages on their websites, increasing messaging via social media, and continuing to be the convener of local governments. Many are using video platforms for meetings with staff and boards. A number of members reported their offices were open with limited staff. As expected, remote work situations are challenging due to bandwidth issues, lack of technology (laptops and software), and lack of access to files remotely. Many members are looking at creative ways to continue services, especially those that do meals on wheels programs.

The **federal funds members plan to use/are using to provide emergency assistance** in their regions include EDA (in general as well as RLF specific); USDA (IRP and RMAP); CDBG; FEMA; CDFI; SBA microloan, 504, disaster funds; OAA and HHS. A couple of members are reaching out to their states for assistance and one mentioned using its own loan fund.

**Additional federal resources identified as needed to provide assistance in members' regions** included loan funds for small and micro businesses (perhaps in the form of grants vs loans); funds for social service programs (childcare, meals for elderly, homeless, UI); funds for first responders; funds to hire staff at the EDD to help manage programs once anticipated federal assistance arrives; and broadband funds. There were several comments about the need to reduce/eliminate federal bureaucratic red tape with grant applications, and to make sure that EDDs were included as a logical partner for disbursing federal funds to local businesses, nonprofits and other organizations. Many mentioned the importance of making sure rural communities are not forgotten.

**Regarding members' daily operations**, all respondents said they are still open for business but in modified formats: some are 100% remotely working; some are a blend with staff whose jobs

allow working from home, others have staggering schedules for staff to be in the office. Those that are still working in the office said it is closed to the public and staff are social distancing and offices are frequently cleaned and sanitized. A number mentioned the challenges of inadequate internet. Some were waiting for governors to allow public meetings to be conducted via video conferencing. Many said they are using all sorts of platforms for virtual meetings (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, Webex, Google biz, regular conference calls, etc). Almost all have some sort of regular staff contact – calls, video, etc. Communications with the general public were being accomplished through social media, constant contact messaging, robocalls, word of mouth, calls, email, website updates. One member shared that they have created a COVID-19 paid time off (PTO) account for staff who are unable to work for a specified timeframe.

Responses to questions concerning **challenges to program and service continuity** focused largely on staff: insufficient staffing issues already existed prior to the pandemic and members expect an increased need for more staff once new funds are available; members emphasized stress on staff trying to juggle work responsibilities with childcare; bandwidth issues also create a barrier to productivity at home. Information overload was mentioned, as well: many of you feel challenged with sharing the most appropriate information with your communities. Several expressed general concern about rural communities and regions as a result of rural hospital closures, lack of medical personnel, and perception that COVID-19 is more of an urban problem. The challenges of community engagement in a time of social isolation and distancing, self-quarantining, and shutdowns was expressed. Most were concerned about resources, both what is available now and when supplemental funds might come available and would there be enough.

In response to our question about **what information and resources members will need from NADO and the Research Foundation going forward**, advocacy was mentioned with great frequency. EDA funds to EDDs, getting money to rural communities, getting funds to help small local businesses, and relaxing bureaucracy associated with grant seeking/awards were all mentioned. In addition to information about financial resources to individuals, businesses, cities/counties, members also requested a list of states that have eased restrictions on public meetings, ideas on community engagement from a distance, best practices for remote team/employee management, suggestions on how to move into the economy that will emerge post COVID-19, share how EDDs are continuing to provide social services during the pandemic (what is working and lessons learned). Members want NADO to continue advocating for rural regions and EDDs. Several respondents suggested NADO host a clearinghouse of info on [www.nado.org](http://www.nado.org); we have established the [RDO COVID-19 Resource Center](#). We will continue to update the resource center daily with relevant and timely resources.

NADO members that have not yet completed the survey, but want to share their thoughts and experiences with NADO [can access the survey here](#).

As always, please reach out to [NADO staff](#) with any questions or for additional assistance. Be sure to follow NADO News and our social media channels ([Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)) for more information and updates.

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- **NADO Successfully Advocates for More than \$1 Billion in Funding for EDA in COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Bill**
- **Visit NADO's RDO COVID-19 Resource Center for the Latest Information to Support Your Regional Efforts**
- **NADO Members Share How They Continue to Provide Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
- **NADO Comments to OMB Now Available**
- **Full Refunds or Alternate Content Being Offered for Cancelled NADO Washington Policy Conference**
- **Innovations in Accessible Mobility Grant Application Deadline Extended to May 1**
- **Upcoming Webinar to Discuss Funding and Financing Strategies for Integrated Hazard Mitigation and Water Resource Plans**
- **2020 Census: View Your Region's Response Rate**
- **Latest CEDS in Action Case Study Features EMDC's Economic Opportunity Response Team Program**
- **Deadline for National Regional Transportation Conference Excellence in Regional Transportation Award Applications Extended**
- **Job Announcements**

## **LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

### **NADO Comments to OMB Now Available**

NADO has submitted [comments](#) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in response to the OMB Notice of Proposed Revision, docket OMB-2019-0005, as published in the Federal Register on January 22, 2020. These comments address the “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards,” commonly known as the “OMB Super Circular” (2 CFR 200).

NADO's submission reflects the input that many NADO members have provided; we thank all those of you who gave us your feedback. In addition to submitting our newest set of comments (available [here](#)), NADO has also re-submitted an older letter than we sent to OMB previously (available [here](#)), which we are once again referencing and re-attaching along with our newest submission. NADO members are welcome to submit these same comments, and/or to reference/submit any subset of this text.

## NADO NEWS AND NOTES

### Full Refunds or Alternate Content Being Offered for Cancelled NADO Washington Policy Conference

Those of you who had planned to attend the NADO-DDAA Washington Conference may be wondering how NADO and DDAA will be handling conference refunds given the unfortunate cancellation of the event. We want make members aware of a few different options NADO and DDAA are offering.

Despite having to cancel this year's in-person Washington Policy Conference due to health and safety concerns posed by the spread of COVID-19, we still want to bring you some of the content that we were so excited to deliver. NADO and DDAA are jointly offering a **virtual conference, which will consist of eight sessions delivered via video webinar**. You will have the option to attend these sessions live, allowing you to see and hear presentations in real time and ask questions of the presenters, or to enjoy the recorded sessions at your convenience. Initial session offerings of the virtual conference will be available on or after April 13, and additional offerings will be available in May. Once all sessions are recorded, NADO and DDAA will provide all eight webinars as a package for later viewing or to share with members of your staff who were not able to participate in real time.

#### Your Refund Options:

1. **Option #1: Full Refund** – if you wish to receive a full refund of the conference fees you originally paid to attend the joint NADO-DDAA conference, we will gladly process your refund. We will also refund all cancellation fees. **If you would like a full refund, please email** both Brittany Salazar at [bsalazar@nado.org](mailto:bsalazar@nado.org) and Spencer Abrams at [sabrams@crec.net](mailto:sabrams@crec.net) **by Tuesday, March 31** with the **email subject line “Refund.”**
2. **Option #2: NADO and DDAA Virtual Conference** – if you would like to participate in the virtual conference, you have the option to apply the conference fees that you already paid toward the webinar series, instead of receiving a refund. **If you would like to apply your conference fees toward the virtual conference, please email** both Spencer Abrams at [sabrams@crec.net](mailto:sabrams@crec.net) and Brittany Salazar at [bsalazar@nado.org](mailto:bsalazar@nado.org) **by Tuesday, March 31** with the **email subject line “Virtual Conference.”** (Note: even if you already requested a refund, you may still change that request now by contacting us).

NADO and DDAA value each of our members and we thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, concerns, or input, please don't hesitate to let us know. Most importantly, please stay safe and healthy during this challenging time.

### Innovations in Accessible Mobility Grant Application Deadline Extended to May 1

The application deadline for the [National Aging and Disability Transportation Center](#) (NADTC) Innovations in Accessible Mobility grant program has been extended to **May 1, 2020**. Funding is available for up to 10 communities for projects designed to increase accessible transportation options for older adults and people with disabilities. NADTC will consider applications that propose innovations related to Coronavirus response. Grant recipients will receive up to \$30,000

each. Local or regional agencies that provide transportation service are encouraged to apply. Learn more at NADTC's [grant opportunities page](#).

## **U.S. DOT Increases Transit Program Flexibility to Help Agencies Respond to Coronavirus**

The Federal Transit Administration has announced that expanded eligibility of federal assistance is available under FTA's Emergency Relief Program to help transit agencies respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) in states where the Governor has declared a state of emergency. This includes recipients of Urbanized Area and Rural formula funds. For agencies that meet the criteria, the funds can be used for operating expenses in addition to capital expenses, and the change permits operating expenses to be covered at an 80 percent federal share rather than 50 percent. For more information, view the [FTA news release](#) and [FTA's Frequently Asked Questions](#) regarding Coronavirus.

## **FTA Announces Transportation Program for Areas with Persistent Poverty**

On March 3, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the new [Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone \(HOPE\) program](#). This program will make available \$8.5 million to improve transit services or facilities in areas of persistent poverty through funding for planning, engineering, technical studies, or financial plans. An area of persistent poverty is a county with 20% or more of the population living in poverty over the 30 years preceding the date of enactment of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, or December 20, 2019, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial census and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Applicants for the HOPE program must be eligible recipients or sub-recipients under section 5307, 5310, or 5311 of title 49 of United States Code. Applications are due **May 4, 2020**. [Click here to learn more and access the NOFO](#).

## **USDA to Prioritize Projects that Support Regional Economic and Community Development Planning**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing funds to rural projects that support regional economic and community development planning. This [Strategic Economic and Community Development \(SECD\)](#) funding is authorized for applications submitted through the [Community Facilities Loans, Grants and Loan Guarantees](#), [Water and Waste Disposal Program Loans, Grants and Loan Guarantees](#), [Business & Industry Program Loan Guarantees](#), and [Rural Business Development Grants](#) programs. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships, and innovation. For more information in this opportunity, click [here](#).

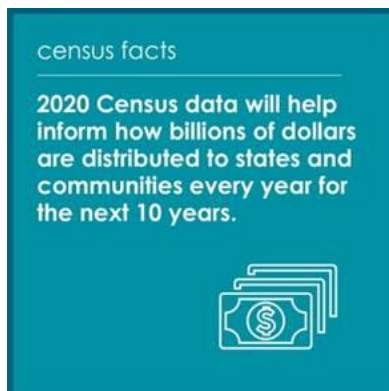
## **Strengthening Rural Communities Program Accepting Applications through April 15**

The [Minnesota Housing Partnership \(MHP\)](#) is currently accepting applications for its [Strengthening Rural Communities Program](#). Rooted in Minnesota but recognized as a leader nationwide, MHP specializes in working with rural communities and tribal entities to strengthen their communities. Through a competitive application process, the Strengthening Rural

Communities Program provides technical assistance to rural communities to overcome impediments to successful planning and implementation of affordable housing and community development projects. From innovative planning practices to knowledge of complex federal housing programs, MHP gives organizations the ability to build and preserve housing and community assets. Applications for technical assistance are due **April 15, 2020**. Click [here](#) to learn more and apply.

## **Upcoming Webinar to Discuss Funding and Financing Strategies for Integrated Hazard Mitigation and Water Resource Plans**

The [Environmental Finance Center Network](#) and the [Smart Management for Small Water Systems](#) program is hosting a webinar that will focus on funding and financing strategies for integrated hazard mitigation and water resource plans on **May 27 from 2 – 3 p.m. ET**. In light of increasing development and ever-changing future conditions, increasingly stressed infrastructure, and growing financial pressures, integrating hazard mitigation and water quality-focused resource management is becoming more and more important to the success of water systems and other public-serving entities. This webinar will provide strategies for incorporating funding and financial strategies into integrated plans and explore various solutions for how local communities can pay for water resource projects. Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.



## **2020 Census: View Your Region's Response Rate**

Earlier this week, the Census Bureau released a link to its Response Rates tool, the [Census Response Rate Map](#), which shows how cities and towns across the U.S. are responding to the 2020 Census. The map is updated daily and communities can use the online feature to map response rates at the state, city, county, congressional district, and tribal area levels. Visit [2020Census.gov](#) for shareable outreach materials and toolkits and to learn more about ways to encourage Census participation in your region.

## **Upcoming Webinar to Cover Regionalization Strategies for Small Water Systems**

The [Environmental Finance Center Network](#) and the [Smart Management for Small Water Systems](#) program is hosting an upcoming webinar that will focus on strategies to support regionalization for small water systems on **April 16 from 2 – 3 p.m. ET**. Communities are increasingly considering regionalized solutions for water system challenges regarding aging infrastructure, contaminated water sources, and capacity needs. In order to cover the basics of regionalization models, this webinar will introduce a couple of regionalization options while



providing resources and advice on how to approach your partnership agreements in an effective and beneficial manner. Click [here](#) to learn more and to register.



### Latest CEDS in Action Case Study Features EMDC’s Economic Opportunity Response Team Program

As part of its [Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions](#) program, the NADO Research Foundation has launched a [new case studies series](#) that highlights “CEDS in Action” – examples of transformative projects that were inspired or identified through the CEDS process. The latest case study features the *Economic Opportunity Response Team* program designed by the [Eastern Maine Development Corporation](#). This approach to economic development planning and implementation has transformed how the organization does business, responds to community needs, and carries out its CEDS. Click [here](#) to read the case study. Do you have a project or initiative that you would like featured in this series? Contact NADO RF Associate Director Brett Schwartz at [bschwartz@nado.org](mailto:bschwartz@nado.org).



### Registration for the National CEDS Forum to Open in April

Save the date for the National CEDS Forum, scheduled for **July 29 – 31, 2020 in Kansas City, MO!** This event will bring together staff from Economic Development Districts, regional organizations, tribes, and federal agencies for a mix of training sessions, tours, and networking opportunities. Participants will learn about the latest best practices and resources available to support their CEDS planning, development, and implementation. Registration will open in April. Contact Brett Schwartz at [bschwartz@nado.org](mailto:bschwartz@nado.org) for more information.



## **Deadline for National Regional Transportation Conference Excellence in Regional Transportation Award Applications Extended**

Due to the recent developments regarding COVID-19, the deadline for the [National Regional Transportation Conference](#) Excellence in Regional Transportation Award applications have been extended to **April 24, 2020**. The conference is planned for July 28 - 30, 2020, in Kansas City, MO, and will be held in conjunction with the National CEDS Forum, July 29 - 31. Click [here](#) to submit awards application.



## **NADO's 2020 ATC – *Regions Rock*, Scheduled to “Rock On”!**

NADO's 2020 Annual Training Conference (ATC), *Regions Rock*, is five months away. Although we are in the midst of the evolving Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, staff are continuing to move forward with conference planning. As we continue to monitor the situation closely, we want to be as transparent as possible and keep our members updated. We are working with the [Hilton Cleveland Downtown](#), [Destination Cleveland](#) – Cuyahoga County's convention and visitors bureau, and other suppliers to make sure that our meeting environment stays clean and healthy.

NADO's 2020 ATC will take place from **October 17-20** at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. [Click here](#) to make your room reservations now and take advantage of the special conference early bird rate. As of now, we plan to launch online registration in the coming month. Stay tuned for more registration details.

The conference will include a variety of plenary and breakout sessions, conversation cafés and learning labs, mobile workshops, peer networking events, the Impact Awards roundtable reception, and much more. And don't miss out on Cleveland's rich music scene and legendary sports teams as well as its comforting cuisine, bustling craft brewhouses, and world class arts and culture.

We appreciate your continued support of NADO and your commitment to improving your local and regional quality of life. Be sure to check for ATC 2020 information and updates in NADO News, on our [website](#), and in your email inbox.

## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Southern Development Authority Seeks Chief Executive Officer**

The Southland Development Authority (SDA), a new economic development institution charged with driving comprehensive, transformative, and inclusive economic growth in the South Suburbs of Cook County, IL, is seeking a Chief Executive Officer. The SDA arises from and will be the lead institution managing the South Suburban Economic Growth Initiative (SSEGI) – a multi-year collaboration among community, government, and industry to reestablish the South Suburbs as an economic powerhouse. The SDA is a quarterback institution that provides the new institutional and financial capacity to collaboratively facilitate strategic, large-scale investment necessary to propel the Southland forward. Candidates must possess strong leadership and consensus building skills, particularly around business, real estate, human capital, community, and similar development projects. For more information on this position, its necessary qualifications, and the SDA, click here. To apply, submit a current resume and letter of introduction to Kittleman & Associates, LLC at <https://ww2.kittlemansearch.com/Jobs>.

## **NADO CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **NADO Summer Board of Directors Meeting**

June 13-15, 2020

Telluride, CO

Click [here](#) for more information

### **2020 National Regional Transportation Conference**

July 28-30, 2020

Marriott Country Club Plaza

4445 Main Street

Kansas City, MO

Click [here](#) for more information

### **National CEDS Forum**

July 29-31, 2020  
Marriott Country Club Plaza  
4445 Main Street  
Kansas City, MO

### **NADO 2020 Annual Training Conference**

October 17-20, 2020  
Hilton Cleveland Downtown  
100 Lakeside Avenue East  
Cleveland, OH  
Click [here](#) for more information

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### **STAY CONNECTED**

