



## 2020 Legislative Priorities

### National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and the network of Regional Development Organizations (RDOs) that NADO represents support federal programs and regional initiatives that improve economic conditions and quality of life in America's rural and small metropolitan communities.

Across the country, RDOs serve as catalysts for regional economic development, urban and rural planning, public-private partnerships, and strategic initiatives designed to fulfill locally-identified priorities. RDOs collectively assist thousands of cities and counties with economic development, workforce training, transportation planning, public infrastructure, affordable housing, disaster mitigation, public health, and other essential community services.

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) provides advocacy, education, research, and training for the nation's network of RDOs. NADO's 2020 legislative priorities include:

### Economic Development

- Reauthorize the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) and provide increased funding for EDA with an emphasis on public works and planning grants
- Support legislative changes to reform and localize control of EDA Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs) to reduce burdensome reporting requirements
- Prioritize long-term economic sustainability in post-disaster recovery efforts
- Reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and support authorized funding levels; continue to provide support for locally-driven Workforce Investment Boards
- Maintain the SBA's 504 Certified Development Company microloan lending and technical assistance program

### 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
- Reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA) and maintain full funding and program flexibility for HHS Area Agencies on Aging; preserve the "right of first refusal" for AAAs
- Support the EPA's brownfields cleanup and assessment programs as well as the EPA's community revitalization and smart growth programs

## Transportation and Infrastructure

- Support programs and policies to plan, coordinate, rehabilitate, and maintain highway, public transportation, non-motorized transportation, short line rail, and road safety improvements that benefit underserved and rural regions
- Promote affordable, accessible telecommunications services and high-speed broadband connectivity in underserved rural areas
- Support federal-state partnerships that assist state and local governments and RDOs in planning, developing, and maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure systems
- Strengthen the role of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) in the transportation planning process and in the reauthorization of 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

## Rural Development

- Support USDA Rural Development grant and loan programs for infrastructure improvements, business development, community facilities, housing, broadband services, and rural utilities

## Regional Commissions

- Support funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), the Denali Commission, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC), and other regional commissions at authorized levels; provide support for Local Development Districts (LDDs) in the ARC and DRA regions

## Disaster Mitigation and 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 and pre-disaster mitigation resources