



Draft Agenda

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and
The Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA)

2023 Washington Conference

March 12-15, 2023

The Crystal Gateway Marriott: 1700 Richmond Highway, Arlington, Virginia

Sunday, March 12, 2023

NOTE: NADO and DDAA board members and advisory committee members are asked to participate in pre-conference meetings throughout the day on Sunday March 12. All conference attendees are encouraged to attend the Opening Reception on Sunday evening beginning at 5:30 p.m. ET. DDAA members are invited to attend the DDAA Dinner Banquet that follows at 6:30 p.m. ET.

10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Registration – All attendees

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

NADO Research Foundation Advisory Committee Meeting – NADO Research Foundation Advisory Committee members

1:00-3:00 p.m.

DDAA Executive Board Meeting – DDAA Board members

1:00-3:00 p.m.

NADO Executive Committee Meeting – NADO Executive Committee members

3:30-5:30 p.m.

NADO Board of Directors Meeting – NADO Board of Directors

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Opening Reception – All attendees

6:30-8:00 p.m.

DDAA Dinner Banquet – DDAA members

*Agenda is subject to change

Monday, March 13, 2023

NOTE: Concurrent breakout sessions on Monday are open to all participants, including both NADO and DDAA members. The “NADO track,” “DDAA track,” and “Joint track” labels denote which attendees may find the session content most relevant, but all attendees are welcome.

7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Registration – All attendees

7:45-9:00 a.m.

DDAA Breakfast and Annual Business Meeting – DDAA members

9:15-10:30 a.m.

Opening Plenary Session - All attendees

Charting the Course Ahead: Landmark Federal Funding and the Path Forward

During this session, hear from leadership from a variety of federal agencies who have played important roles in implementing federal economic recovery efforts over the past two years. This panel of experts will share status updates on how federal funding within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus and Disaster Supplemental, and other recent landmark legislation are impacting communities. Additionally, the panelists will share information about new programs and initiatives, evolving federal priorities, and their goals and visions for the year ahead.

10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (A, B, C, D):

Breakout A: NADO track

EDA and EDDs: Partners in Strengthening Regional Economic Development

Since the 1960's, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the national network of EDA-designated Economic Development Districts (EDDs) have closely collaborated to support regional economic development efforts across the country. As this partnership moves through its fifth decade and EDDs continue to support regional resilience and recovery, there has never been a better time to reflect on the impact EDDs make in local communities every day. During this session, you'll hear from EDA staff about their collaborative work with EDDs, the latest updates on CEDS guidelines, and how EDDs can effectively engage with an array of federal partners and programs. The session will also include best practices from two EDDs as well as more information about the newly-formed Economic Development District Community of Practice (EDD CoP).

Breakout B: NADO track

How Landmark Investments in Infrastructure, Transportation, Broadband, and Energy are Impacting Communities

As a result of the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) -- otherwise known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) -- landmark funding has become available to help communities upgrade their transportation infrastructure and broadband infrastructure.

**Agenda is subject to change*

Additionally, the BIL provides funding for investments to support cutting-edge technology to support electric vehicles. During this session, hear from experts from other National Associations including the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) as they discuss how they are helping their members take advantage of new infrastructure funding and resources.

Breakout C: DDAA track

Pathways and Partnerships: Changing the Employer Mindset

Short-term apprenticeships are promising strategies to address labor market needs, but they require successful partnerships with engaged employers to fulfill their potential. This session will review novel approaches and will include the perspectives of both employers and workforce training providers.

Breakout D: Joint track

Regional Commissions: Creating Better Outcomes for Economically Distressed Communities

During this session, hear perspectives from leadership from the various Regional Commissions that were created by Congress to serve specific geographic areas of the country. Learn how they are leveraging their resources and their unique federal-state partnership structures to create better outcomes in economically distressed geographic regions of the country.

12:15-1:30 p.m.

Plenary Luncheon – All attendees

Innovative Solutions to Rural Challenges

During this session, hear from Matt Dunne, an innovator making an impact in rural communities by investing in place-based tech economy strategies that support innovation, tech entrepreneurship, workforce development, and tech job creation. Matt is the Founder and Executive Director of the Center on Rural Innovation (CORI), which addresses the challenges of rural American economies by directly investing in rural startups to empower communities to build wealth and jobs.

1:45-3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (A, B, C):

Breakout A: NADO track

Promoting Equity in Underserved Communities: Research and Best Practices

Advancing equity within underserved communities is a key priority for the Biden Administration, and soon will be a required component of EDA's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs). Come to this session to learn about ongoing research and examples of how to prioritize this essential work. Join speakers and practitioners as they discuss themes from the New Growth Innovation Network's (NGIN) forthcoming guide and toolkit focused on inclusive economic development, and best practice examples from around the country.

Breakout B: NADO track

Practice and Policy to Support Thriving Rural Places

Significant amounts of federal funding have become available to communities and regions in recent legislation. However, funding by itself typically cannot create lasting change that benefits whole communities. During this session, hear about the Thrive Rural Framework for local and systems-level change that builds upon existing assets to grow regional economies. Panelists will make concrete connections to Regional Development Organizations' work and federal policy priorities of importance to NADO and DDAA members.

Breakout C: DDAA track

Project Development Roundtable

With so many new funding programs in the community and economic development realm, there is an immense opportunity across Appalachia to develop new projects. Join this session to talk with peers about developing projects in a variety of areas such as workforce, broadband, and transportation, or join table discussions to explore opportunities to build projects spanning across multiple regions.

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Regional Chapter Meetings - NADO and DDAA members

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Federal Stakeholders Networking Reception – All attendees

This reception provides an opportunity for federal agency staff and leadership and other national stakeholder organizations to interact with NADO and DDAA members.

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

NOTE: NADO attendees are encouraged to participate in meetings on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, March 14. For those DDAA attendees who do not plan to attend Hill meetings, additional conference content is offered at the conference venue throughout the day.

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Registration – All attendees

8:00-9:00 a.m.

DDAA Networking Breakfast – DDAA members

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Plenary Session – All attendees

Advocacy and the Political Landscape in 2023 and Beyond

Before you depart for meetings on Capitol Hill, hear from a DC insider on how the outcomes of the most recent elections have impacted the balance of power in Congress and the political landscape for 2023 and beyond.

10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Capitol Hill Meetings (on your own) - *NADO track*

NOTE: Attendees are encouraged to spend this open block of time on Capitol Hill educating your members of Congress about your work. Hill meetings are self-directed. If you need help securing contact information for Hill staffers and schedulers, please contact Jamie McCormick at jmccormick@nado.org. Please note that only the Senate will be in session during the week of March 13, 2023, but this window of time still lends a valuable opportunity to meet with Hill staffers in both Senate and House offices. To view the 2023 Congressional Calendar, [click here](#).

10:30-11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (A and B):

Breakout A: DDAA track

Leveraging Technology to Improve Regional Mapping

Accurate mapping is crucial to planning and development, agriculture, infrastructure, water/sewer, and a variety of other applications. This session will review the use of LiDAR data or digital elevation data and how it can benefit your region.

Breakout B: DDAA track

Successful Approaches to Supporting the Recovery-To-Work Ecosystem

This session will showcase a New York Local Development District's approaches and successes in supporting the local Recovery-to-Work ecosystem. By developing a plan, building partnerships, reducing stigma, and tracking successes, supporting a recovery-to-work ecosystem can empower individuals in treatment for substance use disorder while also addressing local workforce needs.

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Lunch on your own

1:30-2:45 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (A and B):

Breakout A: DDAA track

Leveraging Small Business Development Center, University, and Entrepreneur Center Partnerships to Promote Economic Development

In Spring 2020 the Upper Cumberland Development District took over the management of the local Small Business Development Center. The technical services provided through the SBDC have been magnified through the community reach of the Development District, leading to the creation of a collaborative effort to provide seamless delivery of technical assistance, a full range of capital opportunities from micro loans to angel investors, and an innovative new approach to internships that is able to provide project-based work to multiple businesses.

Breakout B: DDAA track

Pivoting to Tourism

The pandemic offered opportunities to think creatively about how to support local economies through tourism, which is an important pathway toward regional rejuvenation in Appalachia. As

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we look beyond the impacts of the pandemic toward the future, what are some new approaches that will define the “new normal” and have a lasting impact?

3:00-4:15 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions (A and B):

Breakout A: DDAA track

Stuck in the Middle with You: Building Middle-Mile Broadband

Although reliable broadband is essential to modern economic development, a variety of challenges continue to persist despite the introduction of new broadband-focused funding opportunities. This session will explore one region’s challenges with, and their innovative approach to, delivering middle-mile broadband.

Breakout B: DDAA track

Rural Entrepreneurship Education: An Economic Development Model

A rural entrepreneurship education program in South Carolina has allowed residents of small towns to reclaim the vibrance of their communities. The entrepreneurship program is having wide-ranging impacts: it is bringing people together; building connections between small towns that had never collaborated before; providing a catalyst for young adults to see themselves as conduits of progress; and providing hundreds of individuals with relevant instruction about business creation, retention, and expansion.

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Reception – All attendees

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

NOTE: Conference content for the NADO & DDAA joint conference concludes at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 15. Following the conference, there is a special post-conference training for the Economic Development District (EDD) Community of Practice (CoP). This post-conference training session is free, but separate registration is required.

8:00-10:00 a.m.

Registration – All attendees

8:30-9:45 a.m.

Plenary Breakfast – All attendees

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Local and Regional Impacts

The passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) – also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) – set the stage for historic levels of investment in all modes of transportation and traditional forms of infrastructure, as well as broadband, electric vehicles, and more. During this session, hear updates from leadership from the US Department of Transportation, the US Department of Energy, and the US Department of Agriculture on how they are working to ensure that the BIL’s impact will be felt locally and regionally for years and decades to come.

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Closing Plenary Session – *All attendees*

Workforce Development: Current Issues and Trends

The future of work is changing rapidly, and labor market challenges are being felt across the country. As expectations and approaches surrounding the nature of work continue to evolve, the manner in which workers are trained to participate in the workforce must evolve also. During this session, hear from a panel of experts who will discuss developing trends, changing policies, and training models designed to meet current challenges.

12:00-5:00 p.m.

An Afternoon with the Districts – *Post-conference training. Separate registration is required.*

“An Afternoon with the Districts” is an interactive half-day event hosted by the NADO Research Foundation that will include training, networking, and the sharing of best practices among EDDs and other partners. The draft agenda is available [here](#). This event is free to attend, but separate registration will be required. [Click here](#) to learn more and register. Contact Brett Schwartz at bschwartz@nado.org with any questions.