



2023 NADO Advocacy Priorities

Economic and Community Development

- Encourage and increase federal funding for regional community planning, which lays the groundwork for the success of subsequent federal investments and project implementation.
- Support the programs and initiatives of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, particularly those focused on planning, public works, and pre-development.
- Reauthorize the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration in accordance with [NADO's recommendations](#). Key modifications should include: increasing authorized funding for EDA Partnership Planning Grants to \$100 million annually; increasing EDA's federal cost share to 90% and reducing local match to 10% to EDA Partnership Planning Grants.
- Provide increased EDA Partnership Planning Grant funding for EDA-designated Economic Development Districts in annual appropriations. In FY2024, NADO requests that Congress provide \$55 million for Partnership Planning.
- Encourage and increase federal investment in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program.
- Across the board, increase federal share and reduce local match percentages for federal programs designed to benefit rural and underserved communities.
- Encourage federal and state level partners to work closely with Regional Development Organizations to align sources of funding and improve project planning and implementation
- Preserve and prioritize local decision-making in the implementation of federal programs and funding.
- Increase federal investments in Regional Commissions including the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Delta Regional Authority, the Denali Commission, the Northern Border Regional Commission, the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, and the Southwest Border Regional Commission. In doing so, increase federal investments in the Local Development Districts that serve as the core frontline partners working collaboratively with Regional Commissions at the local level.

Rural Capacity Building

- Encourage and increase federal investments in U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development programs.
- Reauthorize the Farm Bill in 2023. Within Farm Bill reauthorization, authorize funding for the Rural Partnership Program as it was originally envisioned in the [Build Back Better](#) agenda, to support the provision of grants to support rural organizations' operating expenses, pre-development work, and regional planning efforts.

Workforce Development

- Encourage and increase federal investments in workforce development and training programs and Workforce Investment Boards.
- Invest in entrepreneurship and innovation initiatives designed to benefit underserved and rural communities.

Transportation, Infrastructure, and Broadband

- Strengthen the roles of Regional Development Organizations (RDOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) in the statewide transportation planning process.
- Increase funding levels for U.S. Department of Transportation Metropolitan Planning (PL funds), State Planning and Research funds (SPR), and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds.
- Provide increased federal funding to allow communities to plan, coordinate, rehabilitate, and maintain highways, public transportation, non-motorized transportation, short-line rail, and road safety improvements that benefit underserved and rural regions.
- Provide increased funding for affordable, accessible telecommunications services and high-speed broadband connectivity in underserved and rural areas. Use existing regional planning processes to deliver increased broadband access to these communities.

Public Health

- Support the national network of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs).
- Provide support to help older adults and people with disabilities increase their health, well-being, independence, and dignity within their homes and communities.

Disaster Mitigation and Resiliency

- Encourage and increase federal investments that help communities build stronger, more resilient economies.
- Work directly with Regional Development Organizations to improve the implementation of funding.

About NADO

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) is a 501c4 membership association that represents the interests of regional community and economic development practitioners. Established in 1967, NADO advocates for federal policies and programs that promote equitable community development, economic competitiveness, rural development, economic mobility, and quality of place. NADO represents a national network of more than 500 Regional Development Organizations (RDOs) across the country. For more information, contact Mirielle Burgoyne, NADO Deputy Executive Director/Director of Government Relations at mburgoyne@nado.org