



2024 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 (EDA), particularly those focused on planning, public works, and predevelopment.
- Reauthorize the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. Pass the ***Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024 (S. 3891)*** in the Senate and pursue the passage of similar legislation in the House. Senate Bill 3891 is a bipartisan bill which, if passed, would modernize and update crucial elements of EDA's statute and its investments for the first time in 20 years.
- Provide increased EDA Partnership Planning Grant funding for EDA-designated Economic Development Districts in annual appropriations. In FY 2025, NADO requests that Congress provide **at least \$90 million for EDA 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 2024. Within Farm Bill reauthorization, authorize funding for the Rural Partnership Program, which would direct federal funding toward operating expenses for rural organizations.

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

- Expand and enhance the role of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).
- Direct more targeted resources to smaller communities, including those below a 50,000-population threshold.
- Increase funding allocated to MPOs and RTPOs, including Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds, State Planning and Research (SPR) funds, and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds. Additionally, establish a minimum funding floor for all such organizations.
- Reduce and/or eliminate local match requirements for rural communities (under 50,000 population) and small MPOs (50,000 to 200,000 population), recognizing that these communities are typically resource-challenged. Reductions in local match are particularly needed within the 5311 Rural Transit Program; the Safe Streets for All Program; the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program; and the State Planning and Research Program.

Public Health

- Support the national network of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs).
- Provide support to help older adults and people with disabilities improve 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 that are more insulated from economic shocks.
- Work directly with Regional Development Organizations to improve the implementation of disaster preparedness and disaster recovery funding, and to help regions mitigate, and recover from, natural disasters and economic disruptions.

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.