

COSCD A 2017 Annual Training Conference

Takeaways from Roundtable discussions

- **Community Development: Best practices for timely expenditure of CDBG funds**
 1. Capacity- both internally and externally. Need to make sure grantees have sufficient capacity but also state needs to be fully staffed.
 2. Project readiness- make this a priority in funding decisions.
 3. Cost reasonableness- require accurate estimates so there are no delays due to bids that are too high.
 4. Require milestones that keep projects moving forward.
 5. Local political involvement-make sure municipal stakeholders are involved early.
- **Housing: Containing costs in rapidly changing markets**
 1. Perception & Funding- educate public about the actual costs of development.
 2. Incent developers to contain costs vs requiring high cost benefits like green building
 3. Collaborate with labor- Davis Bacon does not work with all projects
 4. Data- Total building cost per unit not the best indicator, factor in land acquisition.
- **Homelessness: Addressing homelessness in our rural areas-Balance of State coverage**
 1. Huge challenges with many different approaches
 2. HMIS- state wants data, technology can gather data (data warehouses) without merging HMIS's
 3. Implement coordinated entry by prioritizing but no turnaways.
- **IDIS: Con Plan/Action Plan Completion**
 1. Need in person training COSCDA or HUD TA consultants
 2. Use of system gets better over time and use
 3. Some elements within the system are redundant
 4. HUDS own expertise with ECON is an issue
 5. Reports that feed into your data should be updated & maintained throughout the year.

- **Neighborhood Stabilization: NSP Grant Close Out**

1. Recognize that NSP was poorly instituted with too many things that keep it open
2. Track affordability requirements
3. Program income versus line of credit needs to reconcile
4. Convert NSP program income to CDBG
5. Make sure you have reliable reporting from your grantees.