

January 26, 2023

The Honorable Marcia Fudge
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Fudge,

Thank you for your incredible leadership and commitment to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA) values our partnership to address housing, community development, homelessness, and disaster recovery needs nationwide. COSCDA recently completed our [fiscal year \(FY\) 2024 advocacy priorities](#) detailing annual funding, regulatory, and legislative requests. As HUD proceeds with its agenda this year, we offer the following recommendations for Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs.

Funding

COSCDA strongly encourages robust resources for CPD programs. Increased funding to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Homeless Assistance Grants (HAGs) ensures communities are equipped to address longstanding gaps in public facilities, housing, economic development, and related areas uplifting underserved communities and vulnerable populations. Further, additional resources through the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) would greatly benefit housing development for extremely low-income households. We encourage HUD to direct similar funding requests in its annual budget request to Congress.

Program Development

For CPD programs, enhancements to processes and requirements would also respond to ongoing challenges experienced by state and local administrators. Modifications to existing compliance - including determining the effectiveness of existing policies and greater alignment between HUD and related federal programs - offers an opportunity to streamline administration. Additionally, HUD data systems are cumbersome and need updates responsive to administrators. Improvements to these systems would promote efficiency in reporting and improve the user experience.

Legislative Actions

Renewed statutory directives would address critical resource and policy needs as well. COSCDA is urging Congress to advance legislation accommodating CPD programs through updated annual funding, state and local capacity-building, program activities, and administrative requirements. Further, we strongly encourage improvements to the CDBG – Disaster Recovery program through codification and reforms to expedite assistance to disaster survivors.

COSCD A looks forward to our work ahead in expanding affordable housing, promoting stronger and more resilient communities, and creating opportunities for disadvantaged populations. COSCDA reaffirms our support for HUD’s mission, and we look forward to this important work ahead.

Sincerely,



Dianne E. Taylor
Executive Director

Cc:

Adrienne Todman, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Brundage, Senior Advisor

Richard Cho, Senior Advisor

Faith Rogers, Senior Advisor

Marion McFadden, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Community Planning & Development

Claudette Fernandez, General Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Community Planning & Development

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Jemine Byron, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Needs Assistance

Jessie Handforth Kome, Director, Office of Block Grant Assistance

Tennille Smith Parker, Director, Office of Disaster Recovery

Virginia Sardone, Director, Office of Affordable Housing Programs

Norm Suchar, Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance