



As of: June 17, 2025

2025 COSDA Annual Conference – ANTICIPATED AGENDA September 15–17, 2025

Sunday – September 14	Monday – September 15	Tuesday – September 16	Wednesday – September 17
	7:30 or 8:00 am Regional Breakfast	8:30 am	8:30 am Presentations from COSDA Award Winners
	9:30 am depart hotel for 10:00 start @Old State Capitol Welcome and Opening Plenary Keynote: Richard Funderburg, University of Illinois Springfield Illinois Program Presentation	Mobile Workshop Locations: TBD (Transportation Provided)	10:15 am Breakout Session C (Four Simultaneous Sessions for Each Program Area – options listed below)
Noon	12:30 – 2:00	12:30	Noon
Registration Opens	Lunch on Your Own Remain Downtown	Lunch on Your Own Location TBD	Lunch Banquet Speaker TBD
4:00 pm	2:00 pm	2:00 pm	1:30 pm
COSDCA Board Meeting	Plenary Session HUD Update on Cross Cutting Regs	Plenary Session Community Project Showcase	Washington Update Briefing (Jenna Hampton)
			2:00 pm HUD Senior Staff Briefings
5:30 pm	3:30 pm	3:30 pm	3:30 pm
Welcome Reception & 1st Time Attendee Acknowledgement (All Conference Attendees Invited)	Breakout Session A (Four Simultaneous Sessions for Each Program Area– options listed below)	Breakout Session B (Four Simultaneous Sessions for Each Program Area– options listed below)	Business Meeting and Closing Remarks
6:30 pm	6:00 pm	6:00	4:30 pm
Dinner on Your Own	Dinner on Your Own	President's Reception Lincoln Library	Adjourn

Plenary Sessions

Monday, September 15, 10:00 AM

Keynote

Richard Funderburg, University of Illinois Springfield

Monday, September 15, 2:00 PM

Plenary Session – HUD Update on Cross Cutting Regs

The Trump Administration has many new policy directions that impact cross-cutting regulations, including Environmental Review, Fair Housing, Consolidated Plans, and Build America/Buy America. COSCDA is inviting HUD officials to review those new directions and provide clarifying guidance on the changes.

Tuesday, September 16, 2:00 PM

Plenary Session – Community Project Showcase

Hear presentations that showcase exemplary projects from across Illinois! Speakers will share successful strategies and outcomes in community development, housing, homelessness, and disaster recovery.

Breakout Sessions

(See Descriptions Below)

Date & Time	Community Development	Housing	Homelessness	Disaster Recovery
Breakout Session A Monday, 3:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative & Best Practice Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Frontier of Artificial Intelligence & Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning Collaboration with Health Care Providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data-Related Decision-Making in Program Design
Breakout Session B Tuesday, 3:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using CDBG for Economic Development: Helping Businesses Overcome Compliance Hurdles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOME-ARP: Managing Capitalized Operating Reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging Homeless Preferences to Expand Housing Options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing Universal Notice & New Requirements
Breakout Session C Wednesday, 10:15 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole Home Performance: New Approach to Housing Rehab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOME-ARP: Administering a Tenant Selection Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing Performance of CoC Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate Reporting and Management of DRGR & Update on HUD Monitoring
HUD Senior Staff Briefings Wednesday, 2:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Staff from Office of Block Grant Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Staff from Office of Affordable Housing Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Staff from Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Staff from Office of Disaster Recovery

Community Development Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A

Monday, September 15, 3:30 pm

Innovative & Best Practice Projects

COSCOA members will share information about the projects they are proud of. These creative projects may have taken new or innovative approaches to assist a community. These project also may have significant impacts in serving a difficult to reach population or area, leveraged significant funds, or met critical needs. The presenters will also describe how their agency worked with applicants to overcome challenges such as eligibility and fundability.

Breakout Session B

Tuesday, September 16, 3:30 pm

Using CDBG for Economic Development: Helping Businesses Overcome Compliance Hurdles

Some states have significant experience in using CDBG for economic development activities. In this session, those states will provide guidance and advice on how to structure economic development projects to meet CDBG requirements, and how to work with businesses to assure compliance. The session presentations will also highlight how to solicit potential projects.

Breakout Session C

Wednesday, September 17, 10:15 am

Whole Home Performance: New Approach to Housing Rehab

HUD's Whole Home Performance (WHP) Technical Assistance demonstrates how to integrate CDBG basic home repairs with energy retrofits using Weatherization Assistance Program, HEAR rebates, and other funds. This initiative is supporting five local-state partnerships to develop "Program in a Box" tools to streamline production, compliance, and contractor engagement. WHP introduces a new subsidy model and is providing guidebooks, templates, and webinars. The presentation will include HUD's TA provider and a state agency.

Housing Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A

Monday, September 15, 3:30 pm

New Frontier of Artificial Intelligence & Housing

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a rapidly expanding tool across many sectors of the economy, including the housing industry. This session will outline the opportunities to deploy AI for administrative tasks, underwriting, data analysis & use, and decision making. State agencies and private sector representatives will present their experience in using AI.

Breakout Session B

Tuesday, September 16, 3:30 pm

HOME-ARP: Managing Capitalized Operating Reserves

This session will provide an overview of how the operating reserves can be managed to assure long-term affordability and viability of a HOME-ARP assisted project. This session may include information from HUD staff and/or a TA provider.

Breakout Session C

Wednesday, September 17, 10:15 am

HOME-ARP: Administering a Tenant Selection Plan

This session will provide an overview of how housing project managers can use a tenant selection plan with preferences that meet HOME-ARP requirements. This session may include information from HUD staff and/or a TA provider.

Homelessness Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A

Monday, September 15, 3:30 pm

Learning Collaboration with Health Care Providers

This session will have presentations from states and organizations that have developed effective partnerships to serve people experiencing homelessness. The needs for both housing and health care are interdependent and the two systems are learning to collaborate. The session will focus on providing guidance and advice on how to initiate the collaboration in other areas.

Breakout Session B

Tuesday, September 16, 3:30 pm

Leveraging Homeless Preferences to Expand Housing Options

Some states have incorporated preferences for persons who are homeless in their scoring for HOME & LIHTC application selection. The scoring helps expand the housing opportunities for the homeless. There are also examples of states that have worked with private housing managers to reserve units for formerly homeless families and individuals. This session will highlight these examples.

Breakout Session C

Wednesday, September 17, 10:15 am

Assessing Performance of CoC Members

Members of CoCs have an obligation to fulfill various goals and objectives as part of their plans to end homelessness, these include system performance measures and other CoC-specific initiatives. These activities go beyond the housing activities and monitoring for contract compliance. Some CoCs assess this performance as they review and consider funding renewals and new applications. This session will include presentations on how CoC assess that broader performance of their membership.

Disaster Recovery Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A

Monday, September 15, 3:30 pm

Data-Related Decision-Making in Program Design

States have different approaches in application selection for infrastructure and multifamily housing projects. Quantitative data can be used in many different ways, and other qualitative factors often weigh in too. COSCDA members will share their experience and the criteria used to select the best applications for disaster recovery funding.

Breakout Session B

Tuesday, September 16, 3:30 pm

Implementing Universal Notice & New Requirements

HUD's Universal Notice for CDBG-Disaster Recovery imposed new requirements. Additionally, recent grant agreements have imposed some new requirements. This session will provide a roundtable discussion for how states are implementing the Universal Notice and new requirements imposed in grant agreements.

Breakout Session C

Wednesday, September 17, 10:15 am

Accurate Reporting and Management of DRGR & Update on HUD Monitoring

This session will provide guidance and information on how states manage the use of the DRGR system. The presenters anticipated as part of this session include both COSCDA members and a HUD technical assistance provider. This session will also discuss the current status of HUD monitoring, including any changes that HUD is undertaking.