



December 10, 2025

2026 COSCDA Program Managers Conference – TENTATIVE AGENDA (subject to change) March 16-17, 2026

Sunday – March 15

4:00 – 6:00 pm

COSCDA Board Meeting – Open to all conference attendees

Monday – March 16

7:30 – 8:30

Registration

Coffee/Tea Service Provided

8:30 – 9:45 am

Welcome and Opening Plenary

Welcome: Rebecca Frawley Wachtel, COSCDA President

Proposed Speakers:

Claudette Fernandez, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (to be invited)

Washington Update: Jenna Hampton, Director of Advocacy and Federal Programs, COSCDA

9:45 – 10:00 am

Networking Break (Coffee/Tea, No Refreshments)

10:00 – 11:30 am

Program Track Breakout Sessions A

Community Development Session

Using CDBG to Convert Underutilized
Buildings to Affordable Housing

Housing Session

Revised HOME Final Rule

Homelessness Session

Addressing New CoC NOFO
Requirements

Disaster Recovery Session

Challenging Financial Requirements:
Managing Multiple DR Grants &
Recaptured DR Funds

11:30 am – 1:00 pm Lunch on Your Own			
1:00 – 2:30 pm Program Track Breakout Sessions B			
Community Development Session Creative Options to Train Local CDBG Administrators	Housing Session Effective Financial Management of HOME Funds: Handling Program Income, Reuse & Recaptured Funds	Homelessness Session CoC Collaboration w/ Other Sectors (Early Childhood Education, Schools, Disability, and Workforce Services)	Disaster Recovery Session Model Economic Revitalization & Mitigation Activities
2:30 – 2:45 pm Networking Break (Coffee/Tea, No Refreshments)			
2:45 – 3:15 pm Plenary Session Lighting Round Presentations Learn about New Initiatives and Opportunities from COSCDA’s Sponsors			
3:15 – 4:30 pm Perspectives from Other Federal Agencies that Partner with HUD Panel Discussing How Other Federal Agencies are Implementing New Federal Policies and Program Requirements			
5:00 – 6:00 pm Legislative Awards & Networking Reception (Drinks & Hors d’Oeuvres)			
6:00 pm Dinner on Your Own			

Tuesday – March 17

8:30 – 10:00 am

Plenary Session

HUD Panel on New Grant Agreement Requirements, Executive Orders, and Update on Cross-Cutting Regulations

10:00 – 10:15 am

Networking Break (Coffee/Tea, No Refreshments)

10:15 -11:45 am

Program Track Breakout Sessions C

Community Development Session

Stretching Boundaries of CDBG:
Examples of Nontraditional Activities

Housing Session

Using New Markets Tax Credits for
Housing Development

Homelessness Session

Data Driven Approaches for ESG
Application Decision Making

Disaster Recovery Session

Multifamily Housing using DR and
LIHTC

11:45 – 1:15

Regional Breakout Lunches – All Conference Attendees
(Lunch provided)

1:15 – 2:45

Update on Congressional Actions

Panel Discussion of Congressional Staff on Fiscal Outlook, New Legislation, and Strategies

Key Takeaways, Insights, and Future Opportunities

Tess Humbree, Executive Director

2:45 – 3:00 pm

Networking Break (Coffee/Tea, No Refreshments)

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Program Track Breakout Sessions D

Community Development Session

Community Development Forum

Housing Session

Housing Forum

Homelessness Session

Homelessness Forum

Disaster Recovery Session

Disaster Recovery Forum

4:30 pm

Adjourn

Session Descriptions

Plenary Sessions

Monday, March 16, 8:30 AM

Welcome and Opening Plenary

With the many changes in policies and approach to federal programs from the Trump administration, we are inviting a senior representative of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to review priorities and new directions at HUD. We will seek to have a speaker from HUD's top leadership who can outline where HUD is headed and what to expect. Also, COSCDA's Director of Advocacy and Federal Programs will provide an update on legislative activity in Congress as well as regulatory and administrative actions.

Monday, March 16, 2:45 – 3:15 PM

Plenary Session

Lighting Round Presentations

COSCDA's sponsors will describe significant projects and engagements that they have undertaken recently. This fast-paced session will give attendees information about projects they may want to undertake and resources to facilitate creative and effective uses of HUD funding. Each speaker will be limited to just five minutes to describe their recent successful work and opportunities to work with other state agencies.

Monday, March 16, 3:15 – 4:30 PM

Plenary Session

Perspectives from Other Federal Agencies in Implementing New Federal Mandates

States will hear from other federal agencies that often partner in HUD-funded projects. These agencies are imposing many of the new federal policies and program requirements that HUD is imposing. These presentations will provide insight and information helping states navigate and find options to comply with the new federal policies. The agencies tentatively anticipated to present include: Appalachian Regional Commission, USDA Rural Development, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Tuesday, March 17, 8:30 AM

Plenary Session

HUD Panel on New Grant Agreement Requirements, Executive Orders, and Update on Cross-Cutting Regulations

HUD has issued several new requirements in its grant agreements for the formula grant programs. COSCDA is requesting HUD to attend and address these requirements such as restrictions on genders, immigration status, and compliance of sub-recipients/grantees. COSCDA will also seek HUD staff to address new policy directions that impact cross-cutting regulations, including Environmental Review, Fair Housing, Consolidated Plans, and Build America/Buy America

Tuesday, March 17, 1:15 PM

Update on Congressional Actions

The President and HUD are not the only key leadership that impacts federal programs. This session will have a panel of Congressional staffers to highlight the priorities and anticipated actions of the legislative branch. This information will help COSCDA members advocate effectively to meet housing and community development needs.

Key Takeaways, Insights, and Future Opportunities

Tess Hembree, COSCDA's Executive Director, will provide comments that review key information from the conference that will benefit members and thoughts on how to work with HUD under the new Trump administration policy priorities.

Community Development Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A

Monday, March 16, 10:00 AM

Using CDBG to Convert Underutilized Buildings to Affordable Housing

States have often used CDBG funds to revitalize buildings such as schools, retail spaces, and overnight lodging facilities into permanent, affordable housing. The presenters for this session will give an overview of this national trend. This session will include COSCDA members describing how to effectively manage CDBG for such projects, conversion examples, and pitfalls to avoid.

Breakout Session B

Monday, March 16, 1:00 PM

Creative Options to Train Local CDBG Administrators

Knowledgeable local managers of CDBG are critical to assure compliance with HUD regulations. The recent policy changes and new grant agreement requirements are an example of the need for regular updates as well. This session will include information about how states offer training to local CDBG administrators (sub-grantees), particularly using creative methods such as remote or self-paced training modules.

Breakout Session C
Tuesday, March 17, 10:15 AM

Stretching Boundaries of CDBG: Examples of Nontraditional Activities

States have significant flexibility in how they can use CDBG funds. There are at least 108 potential activities to select from in using CDBG funds. This session will provide information about some nontraditional or seldom used activities with a variety of project examples. Hearing about these uses should help states consider how to effectively manage their CDBG program. Several states will describe these uses, why those activities were undertaken, and project aspects to consider if a state chooses to fund those activities.

Breakout Session D
Tuesday, March 17, 3:00 PM

Community Development Forum

This session will address how states can proactively work with HUD on the many new policy directions issued by HUD and requirements imposed by Executive Orders. States also will have opportunities to connect with their colleagues from around the country to discuss specific issues of concern to them. COSCDA will solicit in advance of the conference what issues and topics attendees would like to discuss.

Housing Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A
Monday, March 16, 10:00 AM

Revised HOME Final Rule

The HOME final rule was issued and subsequently revised by HUD in early 2025. This session will have a presentation that reviews these changes and remarks from states that have begun implementing the changes. There will be an opportunity to raise questions and consider the options of how to comply with the revised final rule.

Breakout Session B
Monday, March 16, 1:00 PM

Effective Financial Management of HOME Funds: Handling Program Income, Reuse & Recaptured Funds

There are nuances and program requirements that states must be aware of in managing program income and recaptured funds. This session will cover key elements to help states comply when managing such funds – allowing state recipients or subrecipients to retain program income and managing reuse of recaptured funds.

Breakout Session C
Tuesday, March 17, 10:15 AM

Using New Markets Tax Credits for Housing Development

In the current environment of limited resources, the New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) can be an effective tool that leverages private sector financing to expand the development of housing. There are limitations on how NMTC projects must be structured to focus on commercial/business uses and demonstrate job creation or retention. This session will provide a description of NMTC, program requirements, and some model projects to help understand the potential.

Breakout Session D
Tuesday, March 17, 3:00 PM

Housing Forum

This session will address how states can proactively work with HUD on the many new policy directions issued by HUD and requirements imposed by Executive Orders. States also will have opportunities to connect with their colleagues from around the country to discuss specific issues of concern to them. COSCDA will solicit in advance of the conference what issues and topics attendees would like to discuss.

Homelessness Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A
Monday, March 16, 10:00 AM

Addressing New CoC NOFO Requirements

HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is imposing new policies and program requirements that impact homelessness housing and service providers differently than other HUD-funded agencies. This session will review the current status of the NOFO. The structure of the session will include a roundtable discussion of conference attendees to share their efforts and tactics to comply with the NOFO changes.

Breakout Session B
Monday, March 16, 1:00 PM

CoC Collaboration with Other Sectors (Early Childhood Education, Schools, Disability, and Workforce Services)

CoCs are wide reaching in the range of services that they must address. Often the focus becomes housing and basic services (food and income supports). However, CoCs are charged with a broader range of collaboration. This session will focus on how CoCs can better connect with that broader range of service providers such as early childhood education, the public school system, disability services, and workforce assistance programs

Breakout Session C
Tuesday, March 17, 10:15 AM

Data Driven Approaches for ESG Application Decision Making

The Method of Distribution to award ESG funds can rely on different data sets and procedures to select the best use of public funds. COSCDA members will share examples of how they use both quantitative and qualitative data to consider and approve these grants.

Breakout Session D
Tuesday, March 17, 3:00 PM

Homelessness Forum

This session will address how states can proactively work with HUD on the many new policy directions issued by HUD and requirements imposed by Executive Orders, including the impact on client data privacy and managing service needs. States also will have opportunities to connect with their colleagues from around the country to discuss specific issues of concern to them. COSCDA will solicit in advance of the conference what issues and topics attendees would like to discuss.

Disaster Recovery Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A
Monday, March 16, 10:00 AM

Challenging Financial Requirements: Managing Multiple DR Grants & Recaptured DR Funds

Two significant financial responsibilities of states receiving CDBG-Disaster Recovery funds are: juggling multiple disaster recovery grants and allocating recaptured funds for other uses. This session will cover the financial requirements of both situations and offer strategies for states to consider. The session presenters will include COSCDA members who that have managed these situations previously.

Breakout Session B
Monday, March 16, 1:00 PM

Model Economic Revitalization & Mitigation Activities

CDBG-Disaster Recovery funds can be directed to a wide range of activities to address the impacts of disasters. Economic revitalization projects pose some problematic requirements that state agencies must address, especially tie-back to the qualifying disaster. With limited resources, states must also demonstrate how using funds for this activity still allow them to address all unmet needs. This session will include information about program requirements and states that have undertaken economic revitalization projects.

Breakout Session C

Tuesday, March 17, 10:15 AM

Multifamily Housing using DR and LIHTC

Disaster Recovery funding is more effective when it leverages other resources. The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) can leverage private sector financing to expand the development of housing. There are limitations on how LIHTC projects must be structured, which often varies based on state priorities. This session will provide a description of the LIHTC, program requirements, and some strategies for how CDBG-DR funding can be coordinated with this housing resource.

Breakout Session D

Tuesday, March 17, 3:00 PM

Disaster Recovery Forum

This session will address how states can proactively work with HUD on the many new policy directions issued by HUD and requirements imposed by Executive Orders. States also will have opportunities to connect with their colleagues from around the country to discuss specific issues of concern to them. COSCDA will solicit in advance of the conference what issues and topics attendees would like to discuss.