



As of February 26, 2026

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

Speakers:

Bryan Horn, Deputy Assistant Secretary

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (confirmed)

Dennis Shea, Executive Vice President and Chair, The Terwilliger Center for Housing Policy at the Bipartisan Policy Center (invited)

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	Housing Session	Homelessness Session	Disaster Recovery Session
Creative Options to Train Local CDBG Administrators	Effective Financial Management of HOME Funds: Handling Program Income, Reuse & Recaptured Funds	CoC Collaboration w/ Other Sectors (Early Childhood Education, Schools, Criminal Justice, Child Welfare Workforce)	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

Plenary Session

Advice on HUD's New Grant Agreement 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

Update on Congressional Appropriations and FY 2027 HUD Spending

Congressional Appropriations Staff discuss the HUD Budget Outlook for the upcoming fiscal year

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

10:00 – 10:15 am

Networking Break (Coffee/Tea, No Refreshments)

10:15 -11:45 am

Program Track Breakout Sessions C

Community Development Session

Housing Session

Homelessness Session

Disaster Recovery Session

Stretching Boundaries of CDBG:
Examples of Nontraditional Activities

Using New Markets Tax Credits for
Housing Development

Data Driven Approaches for ESG
Application Decision Making

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 Policymaking for HUD and Addressing the Affordability Crisis

Congressional Staff discuss Housing Legislation, Reauthorization, Codification, and Potential Changes

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 Strategy Session

Housing Strategy Session

Homelessness Strategy Session

Disaster Recovery Strategy Session

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. Also, COSCDA has invited Dennis Shea to speak on housing affordability and homelessness issues and how changes to address them could impact administration of HUD programs.

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

Advice on HUD's New Grant Agreement Requirements

HUD has issued several new requirements in its grant agreements for the formula grant programs and disaster recovery. COSCDA members will share their experience on how to address these requirements such as restrictions on genders, immigration status, and compliance of sub-recipients/grantees. States will be sharing any guidance that they have received from HUD for their own state to implement the changes.

Tuesday, March 17, 8:30 AM

Plenary Session

Update on Congressional Appropriations and FY 2027 HUD Spending

Congressional Appropriations Staff discuss the HUD Budget Outlook for the upcoming fiscal year.

The President and HUD are not the only key leadership that impacts federal programs – Congress decides how and when federal dollars flow to HUD and to grantees. The federal budget and appropriations process is beginning now, and critical decisions are being made about how much to spend on HUD programs in the upcoming fiscal year. This session will feature a panel of the Congressional Appropriations staffers who are responsible for drafting the Transportation-HUD spending bill and making decisions about HUD programs. States will gain insights into how these decisions are made, and an outlook into future funding for HUD programs. 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.

Tuesday, March 17, 1:15 PM

Plenary Session

Update on Congressional Policymaking for HUD and Addressing the Affordability Crisis

Congressional Staff discuss Housing Legislation, Reauthorization, Codification, and Potential Changes

For the first time in decades, Congress is considering two major pieces of housing legislation that could dramatically reshape HUD CPD programs: the Senate's ROAD to Housing Act and the House's Housing for the 21st Century Act. This session features Congressional staff who helped conceptualize and draft these two critical pieces of legislation, and are currently involved in negotiating the difference between these two bills into one housing legislative package. The staff will discuss possible changes to CDBG, HOME, CDBG-DR, and NEPA, as well as the creation of new programs. States will gain insights into the individual pieces of legislation, as well as what policies in each are likely to remain in the final legislative package.

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 100 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 Strategy Session

Central to COSCDA's work in Washington, DC is its coalition partners and stakeholder organization allies. This session features [CDBG Coalition](#) members who have worked with COSCDA for decades to preserve and expand the CDBG program and help shape policy decisions. The coalition members will share intelligence about HUD and community development programs, insights into the future of CDBG, and how to more

effectively advocate. Session attendees will strategize with CDBG Coalition members on ideas for new initiatives and policies for these programs, as well as ways to work with HUD and Congress to improve the effectiveness of community development programs.

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 homebuyer or rental housing. There can be limitations on how NMTC projects must be structured, particularly for rental development that must be part of a mixed use project that includes business/commercial space. 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 Strategy Session

Central to COSCDA's work in Washington, DC is its coalition partners and stakeholder organization allies. This session features [HOME Coalition](#) members who have worked with COSCDA for decades to preserve and expand the HOME program and help shape policy decisions.

Coalition members will share insights about HOME and the trajectory of the first ever reauthorization bill for the program, intelligence about HUD and changes in the new administration, and how to effectively advocate for HOME. Session attendees will strategize with Coalition members on ways to work with HUD and Congress in this exciting time for the HOME program

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, Criminal Justice, Child Welfare, 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, criminal justice, child welfare, 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 Strategy Session

Central to COSCDA's work in Washington is its coalition partners and stockholder organization allies. This session features members of the Continuum of Care working group that have closely followed the CoC NOFO and other actions on homelessness programs, including parties to pending litigation. Working group members will share updates on where current litigation stands and updates on Congressional actions. Session attendees will hear intelligence sharing on HUD and changes in the new administration, and strategies on how to effectively advocate for homelessness assistance programs.

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 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 Strategy Session

Central to COSCDA's work in Washington is its coalition partners and stakeholder organization allies. This session features [Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition](#) members who have worked with COSCDA for years on federal disaster recovery programs, including CDBG-DR and FEMA. Coalition members will share intelligence on FEMA and CDBG-DR, as well as Congressional efforts to codify the CDBG-DR program for the first time ever. Session attendees will hear about the status of FEMA and CDBG-DR grants, potential Congressional action on recent disasters, and changes in the new administration.