



Navigating the Current: Supporting Affordable, Livable Communities



As of June 11, 2026

2026 COSCDA Annual Conference – TENTATIVE AGENDA October 5 - 7, 2026

Sunday – October 4	Monday – October 5	Tuesday – October 6	Wednesday – October 7
	8:00 am Regional Breakfast	8:30 am Plenary: Affordability – More than Housing	8:30 am Plenary: COSCDA Award Winner Presentations
	10:00 am Welcome and Opening Plenary Keynote: Mayor Paul Young (invited) Tennessee Program Presentation	10:15 am Breakout Session C (Four Simultaneous Sessions for Each Program Area– options listed below)	9:45 am Plenary: Lightning Round
			10:30 am Plenary: Community Project Showcase
12:00 pm Registration Opens	12:00 – 1:30 pm Lunch on Your Own	12:00 pm Box Lunches (Provided)_	12:00 pm Lunch Banquet Speakers
4:00 pm COSDCA Board Meeting	1:30 pm Breakout Session A (Four Simultaneous Sessions for Each Program Area– options listed below)	12:30 pm Mobile Workshop Covington – Health Care Training Shelby County – NDR Project Memphis Hospitality Hub Northside Square Development (Transportation Provided)	1:15 pm Plenary: Washington Update Briefing
			2:00 pm Breakout Session D (Four Simultaneous Sessions for Each Program Area – options listed below)
5:30 pm Welcome Reception & 1st Time Attendee Acknowledgement (All Conference Attendees Invited)	3:15 pm Breakout Session B (Four Simultaneous Sessions for Each Program Area– options listed below)		3:45 pm Business Meeting and Closing Remarks
6:30 pm Dinner on Your Own	5:00 pm Dinner on Your Own	6:00 pm President’s Reception National Civil Rights Museum	4:45 pm Adjourn

Plenary Sessions

Monday, October 5, 10:00 AM

Keynote

Mayor Paul Young, City of Memphis (invited)

Tuesday, October 6, 8:30 AM

Affordability – More than Housing

Panel presentation examining how the tri-state region (Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas) is confronting this critical housing challenge. The panel also will share how housing impacts the broader range to community development needs. This session will bring together practitioners, policymakers, and innovators for a dynamic panel discussion, followed by an open Q&A.

Wednesday, October 7, 9:45 – 10:15 AM

Lighting Round Presentations

COSCEA'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.

Wednesday, October 7, 10:30 AM

Community Project Showcase

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

Wednesday, October 7, Noon

Lunch Speakers: Opportunity Zones

The lunch speakers are anticipated to present information about Opportunity Zones (OZs), how they work, what's changed in version 2.0, and on-the-ground examples of how OZs can support housing and community development. COSCEA is inviting a representative from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as well as practitioners to share their experience with OZs.

Breakout Sessions

Date & Time	Community Development	Housing	Homelessness	Disaster Recovery
Breakout Session A Monday, 1:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Alternatives: Housing Construction or Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data-Driven Selection of HOME and HTF Applicants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Elderly Homelessness - Roundtable Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How States are Implementing the Universal Notice
Breakout Session B Monday, 3:15 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using CDBG for Emergency Response / Urgent Need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Policies and Procedures for Housing Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interagency Councils on Homelessness - State Level Initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharpening Procurement Practices: Cost Estimates & RFPs
Breakout Session C Tuesday, 10:15 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deploying AI in Managing CDBG & Disaster Recovery (Joint Session w/ DR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Housing Plans/Initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data and Payment Integration with Medicaid and Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deploying AI in Managing CDBG & Disaster Recovery (Joint Session w/ CD)
Breakout Session D Wednesday, 2:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using CDBG for Demolition in Rural Areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing CPD and Other Funds for Homeownership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Navigation & Landlord Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping to Support CDBG-DR compliance

Community Development Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A
Monday, October 5, 1:30 pm

New Alternatives: Housing Construction or Infrastructure

States will share how they support new housing construction or infrastructure that supports new housing development. The 21st Century Road to Housing could provide additional alternatives to use CDBG funding for new construction. This session will include an update on the status of the potential for those new alternatives.

Breakout Session B
Monday, October 5, 3:15 pm

Using CDBG for Emergency Response / Urgent Need

States have experienced a proliferation of disasters that could be addressed using CDBG: floods, fire, storms. While federally declared disasters are addressed through CDBG-Disaster Recovery, the regular CDBG program offers opportunities to address smaller scale disasters. The Urgent Need national objective can be effective to assist communities in need. This funding method presents certain challenges that will be discussed.

Breakout Session C

Tuesday, October 6, 10:15 am

Deploying AI in Managing CDBG & Disaster Recovery (Joint Session with Disaster Recovery)

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

Breakout Session D

Wednesday, October 7, 2:00 pm

Using CDBG for Demolition in Rural Areas

This session will highlight how states have effectively used CDBG for demolition and the options for its use. States will share their experience and exemplary projects that demonstrate how demolition work can support community revitalization, particularly in rural communities.

Housing Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A

Monday, October 5, 1:30 pm

Data-Driven Selection of HOME and HTF Applicants

States have different approaches in application selection for housing projects for the HOME program and Housing Trust Fund supported developments. 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 federal housing funding.

Breakout Session B

Monday, October 5, 3:15 pm

Developing Policies and Procedures for Housing Programs

A Policies and Procedures manual is important for HOME and HTF to provide clear operational guidelines and assure compliance with regulations for these programs. The updated HOME rule warrants attention to create such a manual, if a state does not have one, or update any that do exist. This session will have COSCDA members share their experience in developing such a manual and may include best practices information from a technical assistance provider.

Breakout Session C

Tuesday, October 6, 10:15 am

State Housing Plans/Initiatives

Several states have launched a state housing plan or initiatives to guide statewide housing development. In light of the concerns about affordable housing and with the potential passage of the 21st Century Road to Housing, this session will provide examples of how states are innovating and marshaling their resources to address housing affordability.

Breakout Session D

Wednesday, October 7, 2:00 pm

Managing CPD and Other Funds for Homeownership

This session will highlight the federal programs that can support homeownership. The session will also provide insight to designing a program to support housing construction issues for new homebuyers. The session will examine right-sizing and design amenities for affordable homeownership.

Homelessness Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A

Monday, October 5, 1:30 pm

Increased Elderly Homelessness – Roundtable Discussion

The facilitator for this session will lead conference attendees in discussing the changes seen in the number of elderly among those experiencing homelessness. Clearly the increasing number of seniors is posing new challenges for housing and service delivery providers. The focus of this roundtable will be to identify both the challenges and share strategies to address their needs.

Breakout Session B

Monday, October 5, 3:15 pm

Interagency Councils on Homelessness - State Level Initiatives

Several states have launched a state-level interagency council on homelessness (ICH) to coordinate and guide multiple state agencies that provide assistance to persons experiencing homelessness. This session will provide overviews of the operation and focus of state ICHs. The coordination and activities of states with an ICH can offer ideas and opportunities for states without an ICH to collaborate with their partner state agencies.

Breakout Session C

Tuesday, October 6, 10:15 am

Data and Payment Integration with Medicaid and Housing

Texas and North Carolina launched pilot programs aimed at integrating Medicaid payments for housing and supportive services. This effort is designed to improve outcomes for low-income and vulnerable populations by enhancing the collaboration between health and housing agencies. The pilot serves as a model to provide assistance to persons experiencing homelessness. Speakers for those states will share their experience with their pilot programs.

Breakout Session D

Wednesday, October 7, 2:00 pm

Housing Navigation & Landlord Engagement

Programs that help families and individuals experiencing homelessness to secure housing are critical resources. Providing information and support to landlords and property managers assists in expanding the pool of available and affordable housing. This session will have states describing their housing navigation programs as well as landlord engagement efforts.

Disaster Recovery Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session A

Monday, October 5, 1:30 pm

How States are Implementing the Universal Notice

Since the implementation of HUD's Universal Notice for CDBG-Disaster Recovery, states have changed their direction and procedures. States will share those changes and strategies they have for implementation. There will be opportunities for attendees to share their experiences as well. The session will also gather information about challenges that necessitate additional training.

Breakout Session B

Monday, October 5, 3:15 pm

Sharpening Procurement Practices: Cost Estimates & RFPs

States need to develop effective requests for proposals (RFPs). Cost estimates are also a critical element of the procurement process. This session will cover how COSCDA members can draft RFPs that assure contractors are honest, and states get what they are paying for.

Breakout Session C

Tuesday, October 6, 10:15 am

Deploying AI in Managing CDBG & Disaster Recovery (Joint Session w/ Community Development)

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

Breakout Session D

Wednesday, October 7, 2:00 pm

Mapping to Support CDBG-DR Compliance

Geographic information systems (GIS) can be an effective management tool to support Disaster Recovery. COSCDA members will share their expertise and ideas for using mapping programs to manage compliance requirements ranging from national objectives, to Safe Housing Incentives program, duplication of benefits, and reporting. With the right data and policies, interacting with maps can be not only useful visual supporting documentation but a key tool for making compliance determinations.