COSCDA Annual Training Conference
Memphis, Tennessee
October 5 - 7, 2026
Speaker List

Monday, October 5, 2026				
Welcome and Opening Remarks				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Moderator	Rebecca Frawley Wachtel	COSCDA President and Tax Credit and HOME Program Director	Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities	rebecca.frawley@mass.gov
Featured Remarks				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Speaker	Mayor Paul Young	Mayor	City of Memphis	N/A
Remarks from HUD Leadership				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Speaker	Bryan Horn	Deputy Assistant Secretary	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	bryan.w.horn@hud.gov
Plenary: 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Speaker	Jenna Pomponi	Director of Advocacy and Federal Programs	Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA)	jhampton@coscda.org
Plenary: Tennessee Program Presentation				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Speaker	Kent Archer	COSCDA Board Member and Director of Community Infrastructure	Community and Rural Development, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development	kent.archer@tn.gov
Speaker	Bill Lord	Director of Community Housing	Tennessee Housing Development Agency	blord@thda.org
Concurrent Breakout Sessions (1:30pm)				
Community Development & Disaster Recovery Tracks (Joint Session): Deploying AI in Managing CDBG and				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Speaker	Jeff Haley	Assistant Executive Director	Office of Community Development, Louisiana Division of Administration	jeff.haley@la.gov
Speaker	Melanie Stewart	Senior Director of Disaster Recovery and Strategic Initiatives	Benevate LLC, dba Neighborly Software	melanie.stewart@neighborlysoftware.com
Speaker	Matt Arlyn	Program Manager	Tetra Tech, Inc.	matt.arlyn@tetratech.com
Moderator	Kimberly N. Carter	COSCDA Treasurer and Deputy Commissioner of Community Development & Finance	Georgia Department of Community Affairs	kim.carter@dca.ga.gov
Housing Track: New Housing Resources from 21st Century ROAD to Housing				**Location: Memphis Meeting Room**
Speaker	Jenna Pomponi	Director of Advocacy & Federal Programs	Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA)	jhampton@coscda.org
Moderator/ Speaker	Curtis Stauffer	COSCDA Board Member and Managing Director	Housing Contract Administration, Kentucky Housing Corporation	cstauffer@kyhousing.org

Homelessness Track: Update on 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act and the 2026 CoC NOFO; Increased				**Location: Beale Meeting Room**
Speaker	Tess Hembree	Executive Director	Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA)	thembree@coscda.org
Facilitator	Julia Zaffarano	COSCDA Board Member and Director of the Office of Homeless Initiatives	Division of Housing, Colorado Department of Local Affairs	julia.zaffarano@state.co.us
Disaster Recovery Track (see joint session above)				
Concurrent Breakout Sessions (3:15pm)				
Community Development Track: Using CDBG for Emergency Response / Urgent Need				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Speaker	Kathi Boatright	Program Manager	Abingdon Field Office, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development	kathi.boatright@dhcd.virginia.gov
Speaker	Gabe Nickell	Branch Manager, Economic Development CDBG	Kentucky Department for Local Government	gabe.nickell@ky.gov
Speaker	Timothy Parks	CDBG Specialist	Kansas Commerce Department	tim.parks@ks.gov
Speaker	Christina Carver	Community Solutions Division Director	Missouri Department of Economic Development	christina.carver@ded.mo.gov
Moderator	Dennis J. Porter	Manager	Idaho Commerce	dennis.porter@commerce.idaho.gov
Housing Track: Developing Policies and Programs for Housing Programs				**Location: Memphis Meeting Room**
Speaker	Carrie Kronberg	Director, Community Development	ICF	carrie.kronberg@icf.com
Speaker	Scott Ledford	Senior Director	ICF	scott.ledford@icf.com
Speaker	Samanta Carvalho	Director	Homeownership Development & Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Community Affairs	samanta.carvalho@dca.ga.gov
Speaker	Mechele Grimes	Housing Division Administrator	Nebraska Department of Economic Development	mechele.grimes@nebraska.gov
Moderator	Brad Satterwhite	Senior Specialist	Division of Federal Financial Assistance, California Department of Housing & Community Development	brad.satterwhite@hcd.ca.gov
Homelessness Track: Interagency Councils on Homelessness - State Level Initiatives				**Location: Beale Meeting Room**
Speaker	Mollie Kaylor	Director of Housing and Community Development	New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority	mkaylor@nhcdfa.org
Speaker	Rosy L. Falcon	Homeless Programs Manager	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs	rosy.falcon@tdhca.texas.gov
Speaker	Greg Barchuk	Chief Homelessness Officer	Pennsylvania Department of Human Services	gbarchuk@pa.gov
Speaker	Felicity Gasser	Assistant Deputy Director	California Department of Housing and Community Development	felicity.gasser@hcd.ca.gov
Moderator	Curtis A. Stauffer	COSCDA Board Member and Managing Director	Housing Contract Administration, Kentucky Housing Corporation	cstauffer@kyhousing.org
Disaster Recovery Track: DR Codification 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act				**Location: Natchez Meeting Room**
Speaker	Jenna Pomponi	Director of Advocacy & Federal Programs	Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA)	jhampton@coscda.org
Speaker	Tess Hembree	Executive Director	Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA)	thembree@coscda.org
Moderator/ Speaker	Heather Lagrone	COSCDA Board Member and Senior Deputy Director	Texas General Land Office	heather.lagrone@recovery.texas.gov
Tuesday, October 6, 2026				

Plenary - Building Community from the Ground Up				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Speaker	Anna McQuiston	Executive Director	MidSouth Development District	amcquiston@midsouth.org
Speaker	Abby Sheridan	Executive Director	Memphis Housing Lab	abby@memphishousinglab.org
Speaker	Chip Johnson	Mayor	Hernando, Mississippi	N/A
Moderator	Kent Archer	COSCDA Board Member and Director of Community Infrastructure	Community and Rural Development, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development	kent.archer@tn.gov
Concurrent Breakout Sessions (10:15am)				
Community Development Track: CD Aspects of 21st Century ROAD to Housing				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Speaker	Jenna Pomponi	Director of Advocacy and Federal Programs	Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA)	jhampton@coscda.org
Moderator/ Speaker	Suzanne Barnard	COSCDA Vice President and Director for CDBG Programs	Texas Department of Agriculture, Office of Rural Affairs	suzanne.barnard@texasagriculture.gov
Housing Track: State Housing Plans and Initiatives				**Location: Memphis Meeting Room**
Speaker	Bill Lord	Director of Community Housing	Tennessee Housing Development Agency	blord@thda.org
Speaker	Tonya Joy	Neighborhood Development Division Director	Michigan State Housing Development Authority	joyt@michigan.gov
Speaker	Melissa Wright	Executive Policy Director	Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	melwright@pa.gov
Speaker	Deborah J. Goddard	Secretary	Rhode Island Executive Office of Housing	deborah.goddard@housing.ri.gov
Moderator	Seila Mosquera-Bruno	COSCDA Board Member and Commissioner	Connecticut Department of Housing	seila.mosquera-bruno@ct.gov
Homelessness Track: Challenges of Merging CoCs and Connecting HMIS Systems				**Location: Beale Meeting Room**
Speaker	Ryan Burger	Senior Manager	ICF	ryan.burger@icf.com
Speaker	Brendan Devitt	HMIS Manager	Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority	brdevitt@ihcda.IN.gov
Speaker	Joshua Gray	Director	Office of Housing Stability & Innovation, Georgia Department of Community Affairs	josh.gray@dca.ca.gov
Moderator	Brianna Atol	Senior Housing Program Coordinator	Tennessee Housing Development Agency	batol@thda.org
Disaster Recovery Track: Sharpening Procurement Practices: Cost Estimates & RFPs				**Location: Natchez Meeting Room**
Speaker	Jane Brogan	Director	CohnReznick Advisory	jane.brogan@cohnreznick.com
Speaker	Robby Bizot	Senior Director of CDBG Program Management	Tetra Tech, Inc.	robby.bizotiv@tetratech.com
Speaker	Molly Keller	Deputy Director of Operations & Chief of Staff	Community Development & Revitalization Division, Texas General Land Office	molly.keller@glo.texas.gov
Moderator	Chuck Bearman	Director of Community Initiatives	Mississippi Development Authority	cbearman@mississippi.org
Wednesday, October 7, 2026				
Plenary: Presentations from COSCDA Award Winners				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Moderator	Kayla Savage	COSCDA Board Member and Director of Community Engagement	Kansas Department of Commerce	kayla.savage@ks.gov
Plenary: Lightning Round Presentations				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**

Moderator	Suzanne Barnard	COSCDA Vice President and Director for CDBG Programs	Texas Department of Agriculture, Office of Rural Affairs	suzanne.barnard@texasagriculture.gov
Plenary: Community Project Showcase				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Speaker	John Holden	Mayor	City of Dyersburg	N/A
Speaker	David Blackwood	Executive Director	West Tennessee River Basin Authority	david.blackwood@tn.gov
Speaker	Berkeley Burbank	Chief Development Officer	ALCO Management	bburbank1@alcomgt.com
Speaker	Porsha Goodman	Executive Director	Door of Hope	porsha.goodman@doorofhopememphis.org
Moderator	Kent Archer	COSCDA Board Member and Director of Community Infrastructure	Community and Rural Development, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development	kent.archer@tn.gov
Plenary: Washington Update & OMB Proposed Rule				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Speaker	Tess Hembree	Executive Director	Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA)	thembree@coscda.org
Speaker	Jenna Pomponi	Director of Advocacy & Federal Programs	Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA)	jhampton@coscda.org
Concurrent Breakout Sessions (2pm)				
Community Development Track: Using CDBG for Demolition in Rural Areas				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Speaker	Glenn Misner	Director	Office of CDBG Field Services and NSP, Georgia Department of Community Affairs	glenn.misner@dca.ga.gov
Speaker	Heather Paul	Director	Office of Community Development, Louisiana Division of Administration	heather.paul@la.gov
Speaker	Justin Fair	Program Officer	Office of Federal Community Development Programs, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development	justin.fair@maryland.gov
Speaker	Stefanie Smith Derwort	CDBG Grants Manager	SC Department of Commerce	ssmith@sccommerce.com
Moderator	Debbie Feeback	COSCDA Board Member and Chief Development Officer	Missouri Department of Economic Development	debbie.feeback@ded.mo.gov
Housing Track: Data-Driven Selection of HOME and HTF Applicants				**Location: Memphis Meeting Room**
Speaker	Bill Lord	Director of Community Housing	Tennessee Housing Development Agency	blord@thda.org
Speaker	Tonya Joy	Neighborhood Development Division Director	Michigan State Housing Development Authority	joyt@michigan.gov
Speaker	Ariel Cisneros	Associate Director of the Office of Housing Finance and Sustainability	Colorado Department of Local Affairs	ariel.cisneros@state.co.us
Speaker	Mechele Grimes	Housing Division Administrator	Nebraska Department of Economic Development	mechele.grimes@nebraska.gov
Moderator	Tricia Davis Winter	COSCDA Board Member and Managing Director	Utah Department of Housing and Community Development, Governor's Office of Economic Development	tadavis@utah.gov
Homelessness Track: Housing Navigation & Landlord Engagement				**Location: Beale Meeting Room**

Speaker	Whitney Whitaker	Homelessness Resolution Program Manager	Division of Housing, Colorado Department of Local Affairs	whitney.whitaker@state.co.us
Speaker	Diana Berube	Housing Specialist	Connecticut Department of Housing	diana.berube@ct.gov
Speaker	Kelcy Ramirez	Coordinated Entry Administrator	Community Alliance for the Homeless	kelcy@cafth.org
Moderator	LaToya N. Arnold-Artis	Director of the Homelessness Solutions Program	Division of Homeless Solutions, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development	latoya.arnold-artis@maryland.gov
Disaster Recovery Track: Mapping to Support CDBG-DR Compliance				**Location: Natchez Meeting Room**
Speaker	Shawn M. Strange	Director - Regulatory, Policy & Planning Section	Community Development & Revitalization Department, Texas General Land Office	shawn.strange@glo.texas.gov
Speaker	Gabriel Cortes	Director of Policy and Compliance	Office of Resilient Homes and Communities, New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation	gabriel.cortes@hcr.ny.gov
Speaker	Alex Pennington	Director of Research & Data	Office of Resilient Homes and Communities, New York State Homes and Community Renewal	alex.pennington@hcr.ny.gov
Speaker	Jeff Haley	Assistant Executive Director	Office of Community Development, Louisiana Division of Administration	jeff.haley@la.gov
Moderator	Gina Campo	COSCDA Board Member and Executive Director	Office of Community Development, Louisiana Division of Administration	gina.campo@la.gov
COSCDA Business Meeting and Closing Remarks				**Location: Heritage Ballroom**
Moderator	Rebecca Frawley Wachtel	COSCDA Board Member and Tax Credit and HOME Program Director	Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities	Rebecca.frawley@mass.gov