



For Immediate Release

National Community Development Association

June 9, 2016

Contact: Vicki Watson, Executive Director, vicki@ncdaonline.org

THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION BESTOWS THE 2017 JOHN A. SASSO NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK AWARD

WASHINGTON, DC -

On June 16, 2017, the National Community Development Association (NCDA) will recognize the following winners of the 2017 John A. Sasso National Community Development Week Award during a luncheon at the 48th NCDA Annual Conference in Miami, FL.

City of Florence, AL
City of Jacksonville, FL
City of Albany, GA
City of Shreveport, LA
City of Portland, ME
City of St. Louis, MO
City of Manchester, NH
City of Durham, NC
City of Greenville, NC
City of Jacksonville, NC
City of Columbia, SC
Richland County, SC
City of College Station, TX
City of Burlington, VT

The award was created as a means of recognizing community efforts to promote and celebrate the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program during National Community Development Week which was celebrated this year on April 17-22, 2017. National Community Development Week provides the opportunity for grantees, sub-recipients, beneficiaries, State and local partners, and the community to unite to celebrate and recognize CDBG and HOME by showcasing projects and educating the community and Congressional Members on program benefits. This year marks the 31th anniversary of National Community Development Week and the 17th anniversary of the John A. Sasso National Community Development Week Award.

CDBG and HOME

Allocated through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the CDBG and HOME programs form the bedrock of federal assistance to local communities. Both programs have been shrinking in recent years due to federal budget cuts. Since FY 2010, CDBG has been cut by over 20% while the HOME program has been cut by over 50%; causing

reductions in local programs that provide community development and affordable housing assistance. President Trump has called for elimination of both programs in his FY 2018 budget request to Congress. National Community Development Week and the John A. Sasso National CD Week Award provides the opportunity to draw national attention to the programs, the need for increased funding, and a venue for fighting against the proposed elimination of the programs.

John A. Sasso

The National Community Development Week Awards are named in honor of John A. Sasso, NCDA's founder and leading force in nationally promoting CDBG, NCDA, and its members. In 1970, John Sasso became the first President of the Model Cities Community Development Directors Association (MCCDDA). MCCDDA eventually became the National Community Development Association after passage of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, which created the CDBG program. John began his tenure in the field of community development as a Planner for the City of Pawtucket, RI. He retired from NCDA in 2000. Sadly, John passed away in August 2016.

NCDA

NCDA is a non-partisan, national non-profit membership-based organization that represents local government departments across the country that administer federally-supported community and economic development and affordable housing programs. NCDA is an association of people committed to assist local governments to achieve high quality, locally-responsive programs for making communities better places in which to live and work, particularly for low- and moderate-income people.