



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2025

CONTACT:

Cyndi Sutton, (571) 213-0401, Cyndi@MerakiCommsGroup.com

Congressmen Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Jim McGovern (D-MA) Receive Congressional Champion Award from National Community Development Association

Bilirakis and McGovern honored during NCDAA's Winter Meeting for their strong support of community development programs

Washington, D.C. – Last week, the [National Community Development Association \(NCDAA\)](https://www.nccda.org/) recognized Congressmen Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Jim McGovern (D-MA) with their Congressional Champion Award for championing community development programs, such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The award was presented to both Bilirakis and McGovern during NCDAA's Winter Legislative, Policy, and Professional Development Meeting, which was held February 5-7 in Washington, D.C.



Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) receives Congressional Champion Award at NCDAA's 2025 Winter Meeting

"It is truly an honor to receive this Congressional Champion Award from the National Community Development Association, a strong group of talented professionals that work tirelessly to maximize federal resources and support thriving, sustainable and affordable communities throughout the country," said **Congressman Bilirakis**. "Together, we are working in a collaborative manner to help seniors, Veterans, and other vulnerable populations. I will never stop fighting for Americans who need assistance. Our voices are stronger together!"



Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) receives Congressional Champion Award at NCDAs 2025 Winter Meeting

"I am deeply honored to receive this recognition from the National Community Development Association, an organization that has been tirelessly advocating for stronger, more vibrant communities for decades," said **Congressman McGovern**. "NCDAs dedication to investing in local solutions—whether it's expanding affordable housing, strengthening infrastructure, or supporting critical services for families – it makes a real difference in people's lives. I am committed to working alongside NCDAs to ensure that communities in Massachusetts and across the country have the resources they need to thrive, and I can assure you I will fight back against any efforts to cut funding or withhold these essential funds from our communities."

Enacted by Congress in 1974 under the Housing and Community Development Act, the CDBG program provides necessary funding to communities across the country to address infrastructure, economic development, housing, disaster recovery, and other community needs.

Over 1,250 state and local governments -- from Quincy, Mass., and Columbia, S.C., to Davenport, Iowa and Seattle, Wash. -- receive CDBG allocations to support housing rehabilitation programs, public infrastructure projects, small business assistance, emergency housing assistance, and a broad range of public service programming.

While meaningful to communities nationwide, CDBG has experienced [major cuts over time](#). Annual funding has declined in recent decades, with the program's latest appropriated level – \$3.3 billion – \$150 million less than FY21 and far less than its highest mark of \$4.5 billion in FY95. As a result, fewer funds are available to drive local solutions to various community challenges.

"On behalf of the NCDAs, we applaud both Congressman Bilirakis and Congressman McGovern for their steadfast dedication to strengthening communities in Florida, Massachusetts, and far beyond," said **Vicki Watson, Executive Director of NCDAs**. "Their tireless advocacy for federal community development programs helps to ensure that every community—regardless of size or location—has access to affordable housing, critical public services, and economic opportunities. Congressman Bilirakis and McGovern's commitments to empowering local communities are invaluable, and we're deeply grateful for their continued partnership and support."

About the National Community Development Association

The National Community Development Association (NCDAs) is a non-partisan national nonprofit association comprised of more than 500 local governments across the country that administer federally – supported community development, affordable housing, and economic development programs through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). NCDAs members administer HUD Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs – CDBG, HOME, Homeless Assistance Grants, and HOPWA. Since 1969, NCDAs

has been at the forefront in securing federal resources and designing effective and responsive housing and community development programs for local governments. <https://ncdaonline.org/>

About Congressman Gus Bilirakis

Congressman Gus M. Bilirakis is a Republican representing Florida's 12th Congressional District, which includes all of Citrus and Hernando counties and most of Pasco County. He was first elected to Congress on November 7, 2006. Bilirakis serves as a Senior Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. He is the Chairman of the Innovation, Data and Commerce Subcommittee. He is also a Senior Member of the Health Subcommittee and the Communications and Technology Subcommittee.

About Congressman Jim McGovern

Jim McGovern is the U.S. Representative for Massachusetts 2nd Congressional District, which stretches from Worcester to the Pioneer Valley. He is the ranking member of the House Rules Committee, chaired the Congressional Executive Commission on China, and is the co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. He also leads the CDBG Dear Colleague letter, which champions increased funding for CDBG, in the House.

-###-