



2026 NCDAA Winter Legislative, Policy, and Professional Development Meeting

Washington, DC – February 4-6, 2026
Pre-Conference Training: February 3, 2026

#NCDAA2026DC

DRAFT AGENDA

NCDAA members are encouraged to schedule Congressional visits during the conference to educate Congress on the importance of CDBG and HOME, how the funds are being used back home, and the need for more funding. There are several allotted times in the agenda for meeting with your Congressional Members. These meetings are not mandatory but are encouraged.



Note to NCDAA Members who are **AICP** credentialled: NCDAA has been approved as an **AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) provider**. Some of the sessions below are qualified CM events. These events will be marked with the following symbol (where the number equals the number of CM credits): **CM | 6**. To receive CM credit, you must sign in and remain for the entire session. The link to APA's AICP listing for this conference is <https://www.planning.org/events/eventmulti/9190142/>.

TUESDAY, February 3 – Pre- Conference training

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Pre-Conference Training Check-In – L'Enfant Ballroom Foyer

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Preconference Training

- **IDIS Primer - CM | 6.0**

This course provides an overview of IDIS for CDBG grantees and HOME participating jurisdictions. It briefly covers the Consolidated/Annual Plans, CAPER report, and receipting/drawing funds. It will also touch on how to address problems that arise throughout the year. Most importantly, it helps communities understand how to tie the electronic environment of IDIS to program files, public meetings, and beneficiaries. This course is appropriate for anyone who works with IDIS.

Trainer: Heather Johnson, Davenport, IA

- **CDBG Basics Primer - CM | 6.0**

PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING This course is a prerequisite for the comprehensive CDBG Basics Course.

This training covers the fundamentals of CDBG including national objectives and eligible activities, eligible costs and regulations, limitations on expenditures, program administration, financial management, monitoring, crosscutting Federal requirements overview, conflict of interest, and resources.

Trainer:

- **Subrecipient Management Primer - CM | 6.0**
This course is a prerequisite for the Subrecipient Management Course. The Primer focuses on subrecipients engaged in delivering public service activities. The management and oversight principles are applicable for all Consolidated Plan program subrecipient activities. The course follows the CDBG subrecipient management process linearly, starting with establishing priorities in the Consolidated Plan and concluding with HUD's role in overseeing the grantee's relationship with its subrecipients.

Trainer: John Callow, Murfreesboro, TN

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Hill Visits

Please arrange the visits ahead of time with your Congressional offices. These visits are not mandatory.

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Conference Early Registration – L'Enfant Ballroom Foyer

WEDNESDAY, February 4

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Breakfast – L'Enfant Ballroom Foyer

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Registration/Information- L'Enfant Ballroom Foyer

9:00 am – 9:15 am

Conference Welcome

- Angela Rahman (Kettering, OH), NCDA President
- Vicki Watson, NCDA Executive Director

9:15 am – 9:30 am

Presentation of the NCDA Congressional Champion Award – L'Enfant Ballroom

This award recognizes members of Congress who have prominently championed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Plenary Session: Legislative Update on HUD Program Funding

House staff will provide an update on FY26 HUD funding to include CDBG, HOME and HUD's homeless assistance grants and provide a roadmap for the FY26 appropriations process and discuss actions you can take to educate your Congressional members on CDBG and HOME.

10:30 am – 10:45 am

Break - Solarium

10:45 am – 11:45 am

Concurrent Sessions

Meeting National Objectives with CDBG

Let's introduce you (community development professional) to the CDBG National

Objectives. Fancy meeting you here! Whether you're new to CDBG or a veteran, learning the importance of the National Objectives is key to running a successful program. Hear how NCDA members meet LMI, Slum and Blight and Urgent Need in their Entitlement programs.

Down Payment Assistance for LMI Homeownership

As the dream of homeownership becomes increasingly out of reach for most LMI households, using Federal funds as down payment assistance take a lead role in helping first-time homebuyers achieve their dreams! Member communities will share their successful DPA programs, so you can take these critical insights home to implement!

Round Table Discussions – Gallery Ballrooms III & IV

- Large Entitlements Receiving more than \$5 Million in CDBG
- Medium Entitlements Receiving \$1 M - \$5M in CDBG
- Small Entitlements Receiving Less Than \$1 M in CDBG
- Management Roundtable: Managing Staff Turnover
- Cross-cutting Requirement Roundtable: Section 3 Final Rule

11:45 am – 1:45 pm

Hill Visits/Lunch on Your Own

Please arrange the visits ahead of time with your Congressional offices.

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Doing More (or Maintaining) with Less

Is your community or nonprofit partners concerned about the future of Entitlement funding or other grant programs? Uncertain times can give rise to innovation, prioritization, using technology or consultants for efficiencies. Join this session to discover how other NCDA communities do more or maintain their level of service during uncertain times!

The Changing Landscape for Homeless Initiatives and Funding

For years, HUD has been encouraging CoC's to focus on and invest in permanent or rapid rehousing projects. However, the current administration is changing priorities for homeless initiatives. Come learn more about these changes and how different communities are responding.

Round Table Discussions – Gallery Ballrooms III & IV

- CDBG Timeliness Work Plans
- Working with your CoC
- CDBG and Code Enforcement
- Management Round Table: Team Building Activities
- Cross-Cutting Requirement Round Table: Certifying Officials for Environmental Reviews

2:45pm – 3:00 pm

Break

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Concurrent Sessions

The How To Behind Your CDBG Project Selection

There are a variety of ways Entitlement communities go about their selection process for CDBG

projects. Some cities call it the Mayor’s Program, and others use citizen advisory groups to review applications. Our NCDAs members will share the how to behind their project selection process – what works, what doesn't and why!

Environmental Reviews – Basics

You have thousands (or millions) of federal dollars to spend on impactful projects for your community. Yet one thing must be done BEFORE you spend a dime! This session will cover the basics of Environmental Reviews – how to get started, what resources to use, and issues to consider.

Round Table Discussions – Gallery Ballrooms III & IV

- Handling Program Income
- IDIS Reports
- How to Work with Consultants
- Management Roundtable: Evaluations and Self-Appraisals
- Cross-cutting Requirement Roundtable: Keys to Financial Management

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm

Regional Caucus Meetings (Open to All Conference Participants)

Region I (New England)

Region II (NY/NJ)

Region III & IV (Mid-Atlantic/Southeast)

Region V/VII/VIII (Midwest/Great Plains)

Region VI (Southwest)

Region IX (Pacific)

Region X (Northwest)

THURSDAY, February 5

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Breakfast – L’Enfant Ballroom Foyer

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Registration/Information – L’Enfant Ballroom Foyer

8:45 am – 9:45 am

Plenary Session: A Frank Discussion on Executive Orders and Agreement Addendums

9:45 am – 10:00 am

Presentation of the NCDAs Congressional Champion Award – L’Enfant Ballroom

10:00 am – 10:15 am

Break – Solarium

10:15 am – 11:15 am

Concurrent Sessions

Creating a Compliant and Audit Friendly CDBG Program

Local/State/Federal Policies Increase Affordable Housing

Keep Your Chin Up – Managing During Uncertain Times

11:30 am – 12:45 pm

Plenary Session: HUD Program Update

This not to be missed session will provide important HUD program updates on CDBG, HOME, ESG, Continuum of Care, Housing Counseling, and Fair Housing including new policy initiatives and upcoming proposed rules

12:45 pm – 2:30 pm

Hill Visits/Lunch on Your Own

Please arrange the visits ahead of time with your Congressional offices. These visits are not mandatory.

12:45 pm – 2:30 pm

Board of Directors Luncheon Meeting

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Social Media, Outreach and Engagement Policies

Procurement & Contracting Policy Shifts

Together we will review the new Executive Order on federal procurement, changes to vendor/contractor requirements and impacts, and the revocation of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion mandates in contracting.

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Roundtable Discussions

- Creating and Executing CDBG Subrecipient Agreements
- Single Family Rehab Programs
- Using CDBG for Emergency Payments
- Management Roundtable: Boosting Morale During a Heavy Workload,
- Homeless Roundtable: Strategies for Unsheltered Homelessness

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Break

3:45 pm -4:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Using CDBG for Economic Revitalization

Using HOME for Single Family Home Ownership

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Roundtable Discussions

- Making a Substantial Amendment to Your Action Plan
- Are you a new Director? What to expect
- Working with Elected Officials
- Management Roundtable: Hiring Best Practices

- Crosscutting Requirement Roundtable: BABA Status

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Conference Reception – *L’Enfant Ballroom & Foyer*

FRIDAY, February 6

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Registration/Information – *L’Enfant Ballroom Foyer*

8:00 am – 8:30 am

Coffee/Snacks – *L’Enfant Ballroom Foyer*

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Plenary Session: Community Development Best Practices
Winners of the 2026 Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award will present their outstanding community development projects.

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Awards Brunch – *L’Enfant Ballroom*

Guest Speaker - TBA

2026 Audrey Nelson Community Development Award
Winners:

