



PRESS RELEASE

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NCDAA Awards Five Recipients the 2026 John A. Sasso National Community Development Week Award

Washington, DC – On May 18, 2026, the National Community Development Association (NCDAA) awarded five of its members the John A. Sasso National Community Development Week Award for their outstanding efforts to celebrate National Community Development Week in 2026. This award is given annually to local governments that demonstrate innovative advocacy for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The award is named in honor of NCDAA's founder, John Sasso, a lifelong advocate for the CDBG program and the people it serves.

National Community Development Week was created in 1986 to bring attention to the CDBG program through grassroots support and engagement. This year, on April 6-10, participating communities celebrated National Community Development Week with local activities, public events, news releases, social media engagement, meetings with elected officials, and project tours all designed to educate Congressional members and the public about the impact and importance of the CDBG and HOME programs.

Award winners this year showcased exceptional efforts to raise awareness of the CDBG program and its need for increased funding. For example, the City of Columbus, GA created a community development themed children's book and hosted a public reading led by the mayor. The city also involved program partners in its celebration by hosting an "Art of Community Development" Art Walk, in which local organizations developed creative visual representations of federally funded projects and shared them with attendees.

In Dallas, TX, residents could join a Community Development Bus Tour of CDBG- and HOME-funded project sites. Throughout the week, the city also hosted workshops and open houses to raise awareness of affordable housing resources.

Leaders in Hamilton County, OH hosted a detailed Community Development Showcase which highlighted the real-world impact of CDBG and HOME funding. The event brought together federal, state, and local stakeholders by including participation from three members of Congress as well as local media.

Pasco County, FL also hosted a community event in the form of National Community Development Day at a local playground built using CDBG funding. Partner agencies attended this event as vendors to teach community members about various public services and resources offered.

Finally, the City of Quincy, MA hosted nine separate events and activities throughout the week in addition to engagement on social media and local outlets. The city also released its first official Community Resource Guide which includes an extensive list of free and low-cost resources offered across the city.

2026 John A. Sasso National Community Development Week Award recipients

City of Columbus, GA

City of Dallas, TX

Hamilton County, OH

Pasco County, FL

City of Quincy, MA

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