



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

2010 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

HOUSING, URBAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) supports sufficient and sustained funding for Housing, Urban and Community Development within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for those programs that support housing and sustainable community development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PARTNERSHIPS

- Support the federal government partnership with local governments and regions to resolve critical housing and community-based issues in urban, suburban and rural regions.
- Engage directly with local elected officials, who understand the local needs, opportunities, and obligations through their “on-the-ground” perspective.
- Encourage and expand the federal interagency Sustainable Communities Partnership by focusing on regional issues that necessitate regional approaches.

FUNDING

- Invest in programs that stabilize and enhance neighborhoods in urban, suburban and rural regions.
- Authorize HUD programs with funding increases to allow for expansion of economic and community development programs, both rural and urban, that promote regional approaches.
- Provide and sustain funding for comprehensive, integrated regional planning and implementation in all regions.
- Authorize and fund S.1619, the Livable Communities Act of 2009.
- Support increased funding for proven programs like Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Partnerships Investment Program, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) and the Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED) Program.
- Authorize “Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones” (RIIZs), a change to the federal tax code that would allow for businesses or individuals to make tax deductible contributions toward COG/MPO pre-approved infrastructure projects.

PROGRAM

- Expand programs focusing on affordable, low-income housing and transitional housing - use programs that are successful as models - and ensure flexibility and streamlining of programs at the local and regional levels.
- Promote the implementation of HUD programs to require development through a collaborative process with practitioners and stakeholders at the federal, state, regional and local levels.
- Expand the Community Renewal Initiative to help distressed rural and urban communities designated as Renewal Communities (RC), Enterprise Zones (EZ), and Empowerment Communities (EC) execute comprehensive revitalization plans with increased access to a package of federal tax credits, bonding authority and grants to help implement strategies.
- Provide incentives to regions and localities that perform comprehensive, integrated regional planning that crosslinks transportation, housing and economic development opportunities with environmental considerations.
- Support legislation that will strengthen America’s housing finance system.
- Encourage locally-driven regional strategies to housing and urban development needs that take into account the needs of an entire region, its citizens and businesses.
- Ensure that any decisions regarding land use rests within the jurisdiction of local governments.

BACKGROUND

HUD programs are vital to community planning, development, sustainability and progress. America’s communities need to be able to compete in a global marketplace, and maintaining HUD programs is essential for continued prosperity and success for American businesses, communities and families.