



## Action Alert

### Call Congress to Ensure Funding for Housing and Community Development

Now that the Bipartisan budget deal has finally passed, Congressional appropriators need to cram the appropriations process that usually takes several months into just a few weeks. House and Senate appropriators will divvy up \$33 billion between 11 subcommittees, including the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) subcommittee. Now is the time to send a clear, unified message to Congress.

#### Tell your Representatives and Senators:

*"We need a budget that works for our communities. Please work with your colleagues to ensure that affordable housing and community development programs in the THUD bill receive the highest possible allocation."*

Without additional funding, affordable and community developments will be significantly under-funded in FY 2016. A glaring example is the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, which both the House and Senate propose to deeply cut.

Contact your representatives in the [Senate](#) and [House](#).

## Federal News

### Congress Passes Bipartisan Budget Act That Eliminates Most Sequestration Cuts

This morning, the Senate voted to enact the Bipartisan Budget Act that had already been approved by the House. The act would lift the debt ceiling through March 15, 2017 and raise sequestration spending caps by \$50 billion in FY 2016 and \$30 billion in FY 2017. The bill now heads for the President's desk, where he is expected to sign it into law before the debt ceiling deadline on November 3. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen through the #CapsHurt Communities and #RaiseTheCaps campaigns.

## **Paul Ryan - Author of Conservative Anti-Poverty Plan - Elected Speaker of the House**

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) was elected Speaker of the House on October 29. As House Budget Committee Chair, proposed a major [overhaul of federal anti-poverty programs](#) in 2014. The centerpiece in Ryan's plan is the "Opportunity Grant," -- a program that would consolidate as many as 11 separate federal initiatives into a single chunk of funding for states.

### **New Market Tax Credits Available**

[Applications](#) for Calendar Year 2015 are due on December 16. Applicants not yet certified as Community Development Entities must apply for that status by November 6.

### **USDA has funds to renew expired Rental Assistance contracts**

USDA is renewing rental assistance contracts that have expired for a full year. Priority goes to those that expired after FY1 2015 rental assistance funds ran out in August. The agency is using a new obligation tool, which it expects will improve accuracy and reduce the number of rental assistance contracts that run out of funds before the end of their terms. Each contract's funding will be based on that property's spending rather than a statewide average.

## **NACEDA News**

### **NACEDA Welcomes Membership Director Jeremy Brownlee**

Jeremy comes to NACEDA from Indiana via Great Britain. He worked at the Indiana Association of Community Economic Development, a NACEDA member, serving as the dedicated staff person for the Indianapolis Coalition for Neighborhood Development and revitalizing its membership. Jeremy served two terms as a Public Ally, an AmeriCorps program focused on community development and nonprofit leadership. From Indianapolis, Jeremy moved to Scotland where he earned a Master's Degree in Community Learning and Development from the University of Glasgow. He wrote his thesis on people's motivations for participating in time banking and other alternative currencies. Prior to joining NACEDA, Jeremy lived in London and worked for NatCen, a social research organization.

### **NACEDA Addresses St. Louis Bankers and Community Development Leaders**

NACEDA members from the Memphis, Illinois and St. Louis associations and Executive Director Frank Woodruff addressed the Metropolitan St. Louis CRA Association's inaugural professional development conference. They participated in a panel discussion on partnerships between their CDC associations and banks. Frank also delivered keynote remarks on "Race, Place and the Enduring Spirit of Redlining."

In addition, Frank discussed [Invest STL](#) with representatives from the local community foundation, CDCs, CDFIs, the CRA Association and academics in meetings hosted by Karl Guenther of Community Builders Network of Metro St. Louis. Frank shared best practices and provided guidance on their plans to build a community development finance infrastructure for the region.

## **NACEDA Joins the Tax Alliance for Economic Mobility**

The [Tax Alliance for Economic Mobility](#) brings together a broad range of stakeholders interested in comprehensively building an equitable tax code that expands savings and investment incentives for lower-income working families. [Research](#) shows that of the \$540 billion in annual tax expenditures supporting households to save and build wealth, the top 1% received more benefits than the bottom 80% combined. For tax savings from mortgage interest rate deductions, property tax deductions, and employer-based retirement savings, 70% of savings went to the top 20% of households. Participate in the Tax Alliance's [November 9 webinar](#) on communications and advocacy around wealth inequality and the tax code.

## **Member News**

### **Ellen Janes Takes the Helm of Central Baltimore Partnership**

Ellen Janes succeeded Joseph McNeely as executive director the [Central Baltimore Partnership](#), whose mission is to galvanize the renaissance of Central Baltimore. Ellen began her career in Baltimore as executive director the Neighborhood Design Center. She became the first Assistant Secretary for Neighborhood Revitalization in the history of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, introducing the Neighborhood BusinessWorks loan program, the Community Investment Tax Credit, and the Community Legacy grant program. Ellen then joined U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski's staff as state director, supervising five regional offices. Her most recent position was with Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Baltimore Branch.

Member Conferences:

- [Destination: Vibrant Communities](#) - Community Economic Development Association of Michigan, November 4 in Detroit, MI
- [Homes Within Reach](#) - Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, November 16-18 in Harrisburg, PA

## **Partner News**

### **HOME Coalition Releases New Report and Advocacy Tools**

[Building HOME: The HOME Investment Partnerships Program's Impact on America's Families and Communities](#) analyzes the HOME program's economic impact at the national and state levels. According to the report, states and communities have invested \$26 billion in HOME funds (leveraging an additional \$117 billion)

to build and preserve 1.2 million affordable homes and provide rental assistance to 270,000 families since 1992. The report estimates that this investment has supported more than 1.5 million jobs nationwide and generated \$94 billion in local income. Despite this record, Congress has slashed funding for HOME by 50 percent in recent years and current proposals in the House and Senate would cut program funding even further.

Go to the [Enterprise blog](#) to access advocacy tools to protect the HOME Program:

- 50 state fact sheets
- 100 success stories
- interactive state funding map
- sample op-eds, press releases, letters to the editor and blog posts
- sample letters to elected officials

According to Enterprise, proposed cuts to the HOME program put 36,000 affordable apartments, rental assistance to more than 8,000 families, and 36,000 jobs at risk in 2016 alone.

## Events and Educational Opportunities

**Can housing and community development really improve health outcomes?** - Webinar November 3, 2-3 pm (Eastern). [Register](#)

**NHC Solutions for Restoring Neighborhoods 2015 Convening** - November 5-6 in New Orleans, LA. Hosted by the National Housing Conference. [Register](#)

**Wealth Inequality and the Tax Code: Communications and Advocacy** - Webinar November 9, 3-4 pm (Eastern). Hosted by the Tax Alliance for Economic Mobility. [Register](#)

**Community Development Challenges in Communities of Color** - November 21 in Baltimore, MD. Hosted by the Network for Developing Conscious Communities at Morgan State University. [Register](#)

**New Partners for Smart Growth Conference** - February 11-13 in Portland, OR. The nation's largest smart growth and sustainability event focuses on tools and strategies for creating great communities. [Register](#)

**Home Matters Moving Forward** - Webinar November 12, 12-12:30 pm (Eastern). [Register](#)

## Funding Opportunities & Resources

**Mentor Up Grants for Inter-Generational Programs to Reduce Social Isolation** - [AARP Foundation](#).

Engages youth volunteers in "reverse mentoring" or service activities designed to reduce social isolation among vulnerable adults 50+. November 13 deadline.

**Continuum of Care** - [HUD](#). Supports these efforts for homeless individuals and families: quick re-housing, effective utilization of mainstream programs, and optimization of self-sufficiency. November 20 deadline.

**Urban Waters Small Grants** - [EPA](#). Projects addressing urban runoff pollution. November 20 deadline.

**Gro1000 Gardens and Green Spaces Grant** - [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#). Any municipality can nominate a new or substantially improved garden or green space. November 23 deadline.

**Community Food Projects** - [Department of Agriculture](#). Meeting the food needs of low-income individuals. November 30 deadline.

**Environmental Solutions for Communities** - [Wells Fargo and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#). Economic well-being, community stewardship, and urban environmental health. December 10 deadline.

**Assistance to High Energy Cost Rural Communities** - [Department of Agriculture](#). Energy efficiency in rural areas. December 14 deadline.

**Research opportunity: Program on Social Inequality** - [Russell Sage Foundation](#). Original or secondary research in social inequality. January 5 deadline.

**Rural Communities Facing Design Challenges** - [Citizens' Institute on Rural Design](#). Design workshops and capacity building for rural communities. Deadline: January 12.

**Pay for Success Permanent Supportive Housing Demonstration Program** - [HUD](#). February 12 deadline.

**Financial Literacy Funding** - [Discover Foundation](#). Applications accepted year-round.

**Rural Business Enterprise Grant Programs** - [Department of Agriculture](#). Supports targeted TA, training, and other assistance for small and emerging private businesses. Rolling deadlines.

## Publications & Resources

[Beyond anecdotal evidence: Do subsidized housing developments increase neighborhood crime?](#) - Texas A&M University researchers find that the LIHTC developments may be an effective tool for revitalizing distressed neighborhoods by ameliorating the "broken windows" problem and reducing neighborhood crime.

[Educate and Empower: Tools for Building Community Wealth](#) - Democracy Collaborative report draws on 11 case studies, documenting how community-based organizations committed to economic inclusion address critical questions related to education, training, and empowerment.

## Employment Opportunities

**Executive Director, Connecticut Housing Coalition** - Wethersfield, CT. [Announcement](#)

**President & Executive Officer, National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)** - Washington, DC. [Announcement](#)

**Want to post a job opening?** Contact Suzanne Gunther at [sgunther@naceda.org](mailto:sgunther@naceda.org). A \$25 donation for each job posting is requested.

**National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations**

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