

Community Opportunity News

► INFORMING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FIELD

October 30, 2025

Advocacy



People & Places Participants Make an Impact in DC

Over 105 in-person Congressional meetings were held on October 7 by community developers from across the country who participated in the People & Places Conference. The [People & Places Collaborative](#) organized Capitol Hill Day and carried it forward during the government shutdown. More than 160 community developers from 28 states and 64 congressional districts participated in the meetings, endorsing policies that strengthen affordable housing, small business, and equitable representation in federal decision-making. View the [Collaborative's Priorities](#). The organizers were particularly inspired by the many first-time advocates that went to Capitol Hill. Thanks to all who made People & Places 2025 a success!

National Voice

HOME Reform Act of 2025 Introduced in the House of Representatives

Chairman Mike Flood (R-NE) and Ranking Member Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO) of the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee of the House Financial Services Committee introduced the HOME Reform Act of 2025 ([H.R. 5798](#)) on October 21. The Community Opportunity Alliance endorsed the legislation, which would make numerous changes to the administration of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. We look forward to working with Representatives Flood and Cleaver as the bill works its way through the legislative process.

The ongoing government shutdown will unfortunately delay critical next steps for the bill. It's widely expected that some work will have to be done to reconcile differences among a number of HOME-related legislative actions, including the ROAD to Housing bill introduced by Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) and the HOME reauthorization bill introduced by Senator Cortez Masto (D-NV).

Senate Passes ROAD to Housing Act

The ROAD to Housing Act, endorsed by the Community Opportunity Alliance, was passed by the Senate on October 9 by a bipartisan 77–20 vote. The bill would reduce barriers, streamline permitting, and expand the nation's housing supply. The Alliance's endorsement of the bill was recognized in both the majority and minority press releases announcing its passage. The ROAD to Housing Act advanced as part of the broader National Defense Authorization Act. With the ongoing government shutdown, lawmakers may need to restart the process in 2026.

Reductions in Force (RIFs) Hit Housing and Community Development Agencies

The Trump Administration is using layoffs and RIFs as a negotiating tactic to advance the President's priorities during the government shutdown. RIFs have been reported at the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund at the Treasury Department, the Office of Community Services at the Department of Health & Human Services, and numerous offices at the Department of Housing and Community Development, including the Community Planning Development, Public and Indian Housing, Field Offices, Fair Housing, and Housing Counseling, among others. RIFs at the CDFI Fund, in particular, have drawn [bipartisan criticism](#) from lawmakers. Our People & Places partners at NALCAB have created a [social media toolkit](#) for advocates to voice support for the CDFI Fund.

Convening



People & Places: A National Gathering for Community Developers

The Community Opportunity Alliance proudly joined four national community development organizations to co-host the [People & Places Conference](#). This powerful gathering of more than 350 community developers from across the nation was held on October 5-7 in Washington, DC. Participants explored innovative ways to effectively serve their communities during these challenging times, advocated on Capitol Hill for federal support, and envisioned how to chart a path forward for our field. During the plenary sessions, funders, community developers, and cross-sector partners discussed how philanthropy can evolve during shrinking federal support — and how community developers can help rebuild civic trust and connection. Access session details, presentations, and handouts on the [Agenda](#) webpage.

Shown above: “Investing Forward: Community Investment in a Time of Federal Retreat” session speakers Janelle Chan, CEO of East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation; Brittany Morgan, Senior Director of Economic Resilience for The Miami Foundation; Harold Pettigrew, President & CEO of Opportunity Finance Network; and Paige Carlson-Heim, Head of Social Impact for TD Bank.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Peer-Learning Network

Equipping Commercial Corridor Managers for Success

NOV 20 | 2 pm Eastern
Virtual Meeting

Join Our Next Economic Development Peer-Learning Meeting

Are you working to expand economic opportunity in your community? Be part of our next Economic Development Peer-Learning Network meeting on November 20 from 2–3 pm (Eastern Time). It will feature a presentation about the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporation’s [Commercial Corridor Manager Onboarding Program](#) by the program director and a coach. As always, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and connect with fellow community developers. Thank you to Truist for supporting the peer-learning network.

Register Now

Frank Woodruff Presented on Scenario Planning at OFN Conference

Executive Director Frank Woodruff co-presented the Scenario Planning session at the Opportunity Finance Network (OFN) Conference on October 21. OFN staff members Sindhu Lakshmanan and Ethan Penfield presented a framework for how and when to perform scenario planning in your organization. Frank presented the Community Opportunity Alliances’s field-level scenario planning research as an example of how and when to undertake scenario planning.

Organizations interested in learning how [our research products](#) can be adapted for your conferences can reach out to Research Associate Chanse Sonsalla at csonsalla@CommunityOpportunityAlliance.org.

Capacity Building

New Jersey Member Launches 501(c)4 Action Fund

The Housing & Community Development Network of New Jersey (the Network) launched the Housing & Community Development Network Action Fund (HCDN Action Fund), a 501(c)4 organization. The HCDN Action Fund will be able to engage directly in the political process to identify and promote leaders who share key values. It will strengthen advocacy efforts, lobby, and organize community education initiatives to support policies that prioritize housing as a human right.

“New Jersey does not lack ideas to solve our housing affordability, security and stability crisis. However, we are sorely missing the political will needed to implement bold, meaningful, long-term solutions to make sure everyone can afford to call New Jersey home,” said Staci Berger, vice chair of the Action Fund and president & chief executive officer of the Network. “The Network Action Fund will give our members another tool to help them advocate for laws and policies,

and support leaders who share our vision for stronger, affordable communities and to hold them accountable once in office.”

Identity

Stay Connected Through Our Field Calendar

Looking to stay ahead on professional development and policy opportunities? Our Community Development Field Calendar is a one-stop hub for trainings, conferences, and events across the field. Don’t miss these upcoming events:

- [2025 National Rural Housing Conference](#) hosted by the Housing Assistance Council on November 4–7
- [2025 Texas Community Economic Development Summit](#) hosted by the Texas Association of Community Development Corporations on November 12
- [Effective Board Meetings: Set, Lead, and Follow-Through](#) virtual training from the Mel King Institute on November 19

Explore more and add your own events today!

[View the Calendar](#)

[Submit an Event](#)

Research

Conference & Upcoming Report Focus on Supporting Emerging Professionals

The *Let’s Talk Talent: Building Careers in Community Development* session at the People & Places Conference crowd-sourced ideas for career development in our field. Ideas include:

- **Developing more entry- and mid-level jobs.** Participants discussed the need to give advancing professionals “somewhere to go.”
- **Building networks and mentorship opportunities.** Suggestions included offering peer groups and roundtables for people with similar jobs, expanding mentorship programs, and providing job- shadowing opportunities.
- **Sharing resources among organizations..** For example, organizations can share a staff member to create a full-time position and share technical assistance coaching.
- **Strengthening the pipeline:** Participants emphasized the need to protect career pathways like AmeriCorps and partnerships between universities and community development organizations.

We will be releasing a report later this year — *Supporting Emerging Leaders* by Joseph McNeely — that confirms these ideas. He found that the field has a strong training infrastructure, but little systemic support for career development. Stay tuned for recommendations on how our field can implement solutions.

Funding

[Building Pathways to Economic Self-Sufficiency.](#)

Department of Housing and Urban Development | December 2 Deadline

Grants ranging from \$272,255 to \$816,750 are available through the Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency Service Coordinator Program to assist residents of Public and Indian Housing in achieving economic and housing self-sufficiency. Nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. Funding supports hiring or retaining service coordinators who help residents overcome educational, employment, and health barriers to stability.

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

- [Community development](#)
- [Affordable housing](#)
- [Creative places](#)
- [Healthy places](#)

View current [job postings](#).

To post a job opportunity on our website, contact Cierra Jones at Cjones@CommunityOpportunityAlliance.org.

We request a \$25 donation from non-members.



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