



**2011-2012
Membership Information
Overview**

Striving to Build Better Communities

Membership Information

COSCDCA is a nonprofit organization supported by membership dues, professional development fees, grants and contracts.

Vision

COSCDCA shall represent the leadership role of the states and shall be the premier voice of authority to Congress, federal and state agencies in advocating and promoting community development and affordable housing, eliminating homelessness and in providing technical assistance and increasing collaboration among state partners.

The mission of COSCDCA is to:

- **Advocate** for the common community development goals of the states;
- **Develop** policies and recommendations on community development issues;
- **Keep** members informed on federal and state legislative and administrative developments that affect them;
- **Enhance** the capacity of states to deal effectively and comprehensively with community development issues;
- **Ensure** the availability of community development expertise to members;
- **Encourage** and assist states in the development and implementation of effective community development programs; and
- **Facilitate** the exchange of information about programs and achievements among states.

Why COSCDA?

The Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA) is the premier national organization dedicated to the advocacy, professional development and information needs of state agencies administering community development, housing and homelessness programs. COSCDA is the only national organization that represents the unique needs of state community development agencies and shapes national policy, offering COSCDA members an experienced voice in Washington, access to comprehensive training opportunities and critical program information.

COSCDA was founded more than 34 years ago and throughout its history has remained dedicated to promoting the common interests of its state agency members and enhancing their leadership role in community development and housing.

What's in it for you?

Advocacy

COSCDA serves as a liaison between its members and Congress, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and related federal agencies advocating on a host of key issues—from preserving funding for the CDBG and HOME programs to providing input on program changes. COSCDA offers its members access to leaders at the national level while also playing a significant role in shaping the organization's advocacy agenda each year.

Training

COSCDA holds several national conferences each year—the annual training conference in the fall, and the Community Development, Housing, and Homelessness Program Managers Training conferences which is held in March. COSCDA also offers regular training on CDBG program administration and HOME-related topics and frequently organizes workshops and conferences on topics of interest to state agency members, such as disaster recovery, economic development and homelessness.

COSCDA Academy

COSCDA Academy was created to develop a comprehensive national training program that addresses issues identified as priorities by States in the areas of community development, affordable housing, and homeless programs. The goals of the COSCDA Academy are to enhance the capacity of participants for program compliance and management and to build skills in strategic visioning to maximize measurable improvements in results and program efficiency using best practices. In addition, specialized training workshops on topics of current interest, innovative or strategic approaches, or specific regulatory issues, will be offered at national or regional conferences, or on demand by specific states. The COSCDA Academy will also offer Peer-to-Peer technical assistance from a bank of skilled State-level professionals to provide on-site support to work with States to improve their performance or program efficiency, start new programs, or explore solutions to the problems of specific neighborhoods or communities.

Information and Publications

COSCD A provides comprehensive and timely information to its members through direct contact with the COSCD A staff in Washington and through its website, www.coscda.org and its regular and special publications. COSCD A publications, which are transmitted electronically to members, include:

National Line is a monthly summary of legislative, regulatory and policy activities of greatest significance to COSCD A member agencies.

Member Updates are sent as needed to insure that COSCD A members have access to the most current information on critical legislative and advocacy issues.

Issue Alerts or Program Bulletins are provided periodically on specific policy, funding or regulatory issues that impact the administration of HUD and other Federal programs.

COSCD A Listservs are maintained in three program areas—community development, affordable housing and homelessness as well as a separate listserv specifically to exchange information and input regarding the modernization of the HUD IDIS system. The listservs have allowed members to quickly receive assistance from their peers on issues facing their agencies and to simply exchange information on a range of topics.

Awards

COSCD A bestows three awards annually: the James E. Reeves Member Contribution Award, the Sterling Achievement Award to recognize COSCD A's core program areas (community development, homeless, and housing) and the President's Award for Innovation. The Reeves Award recognizes an individual member who has made the most significant contribution to COSCD A's work and mission over the past five years. The Sterling Achievement Award recognizes state agency programs that have demonstrated, over a sustained period of time, positive results in improving the lives of low- and moderate-income households. The President's Award recognizes a member agency for its development and implementation of innovative policies and programs that have demonstrated success in solving community needs. These awards are presented during the COSCD A Annual Training Conference each year.

Governance Structure

COSCD A is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership and maintains four standing committees: Community Development, Housing, Homelessness and Member Services. The committees make recommendations concerning policy issues in the respective program areas and provide input regarding training and technical assistance needs.

Membership Types

State Full Member

COSCD A membership is open to any state agency whose primary functions are administering housing and community and economic development, and homeless assistance programs and/or providing technical assistance to local government. Full members are entitled to vote on important policy matters, serve on COSCD A's committees and hold office in the Association.

*Dues: Contact COSCD A for information regarding state membership fees.

Associate Members

Associate members receive all COSCD A publications, serve on COSCD A's committees, and receive the discount member rates for all COSCD A's conferences and trainings.

- **State Agencies**

The associate membership category is open to state agencies located in states which have one full state membership in COSCD A. Any numbers of state government agencies, which are not state full members but are located in states which already have a COSCD A state full member, are eligible to become associate members.

*Dues: \$1,500 annual dues for associate membership.

- **Non-Profit Agencies**

Duly incorporated national, state, or local nonprofit organizations that have as their objective the enhancement of the quality of life of urban or rural areas through the development, redevelopment or preservation of communities that provide residents with adequate resources necessary for their well-being, are eligible for membership under this category.

*Dues: \$1,500 annual dues for associate membership.

- **Corporate Member**

Corporate membership is open to national and state corporations, both public and private, that seek to enhance the quality of life of urban and rural areas through the development, redevelopment or preservation of communities that provide residents with adequate resources necessary for their well-being; including national banks and other financial institutions may also include utility and telecommunications companies. Corporate members will have access to National Line and be linked to COSCD A's website to allow for direct access to COSCD A members.

*Dues: \$2,500 annual dues for Corporate membership.

Dues Structure

Dues are based on the population of each state as listed below

<u>Size</u>	<u>Population</u>
Small	0 – 1.5 million
Medium	1.6 – 4.9 million
Large	5 million +

*Numbers in the membership category roundup

**Population is based on the July 1, 2007 U.S. Census Bureau.

Join Today ...

******You owe it to yourself to stay current on the vital role states play in housing, community development, local economic development and state-local relations.***

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

In consideration for the services provided by the Council of State Community Development Agencies, the State/Agency of _____ commits to establish membership in COSCDA for the period beginning July 1st through June 30th.

It is anticipated that payment of membership dues will be forwarded to COSDCA on or about _____, 2011.

Member Information

DIRECTOR'S NAME _____

TITLE _____

AGENCY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ***ZIP CODE*** _____

WORK PHONE _____

FAX _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

WEB SITE ADDRESS _____

If you have questions or need information regarding COSCDA Membership, please contact Angel Billingsley at 202.293.5820 or feel free to complete and submit the enclosed Membership Form and payment to COSCDA, **ATTN: Angel Billingsley, 1825 K Street, N.W., Suite 515, Washington, D.C. 20006**. You can also access the membership form online at www.coscda.org.



1825 K Street, N.W., Suite 515
Washington, D.C. 20006
www.coscda.org