



## Federal Economic Recovery Proposal: Recommendations and Priorities

- **The members of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) support the basic framework outlined by President-Elect Obama for the federal stimulus package**, including strategic and sustainable investments in basic transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, advanced broadband networks, energy efficient public buildings and state-of-the-art education and job skills training facilities. Specifically, our members strongly recommend:
  - **Waiving the local match requirements for federal grant programs**, such as the Economic Development Administration (EDA), USDA Rural Development, HUD, Transportation and EPA, as part of the stimulus recovery package.
  - **Streamlining the regulatory and eligibility requirements for stimulus projects**, especially related to mandatory requirements or internal agency performance benchmarks for job creation, private sector leveraging and local match. In many underserved and distressed regions of the nation, communities are currently focused on maintaining and retaining existing businesses.
  - **Requiring federal stimulus projects to be consistent with regional and local economic development strategies**, such as EDA-certified Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs). While the economic recovery program is essential in the short-term, we also feel strongly that projects should have long-term strategic value and sustainability.
- **Priority Funding Programs for Economic Recovery Package**
  - **U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA):** A minimum of \$400 million over two years to address the current backlog of “ready to go” projects, including infrastructure, job skills training, broadband, business development loan funds and transportation-related improvements needed to support private sector job creation and retention efforts. In addition, resources should be dedicated to funding regional strategies to assist communities suffering from major plant closures and downsizing and other sudden and severe economic dislocations.
  - **USDA Rural Development:** Address the backlog of more than \$3 billion in rural water, waste water, community facility and broadband projects (includes grants, loans and loan guarantees).
  - **Transportation:** Ensure local governments receive an equitable portion of transportation improvement funding for roads and bridges, aviation facilities, transit systems, port improvements, intermodal facilities and short-line railroads. *Transportation investments, especially for highways, should not be limited only to state-own infrastructure and assets.*