



Human Development Federal Advocacy Committee

2025 Congressional City Conference

Marriott Marquis Hotel
Washington, D.C.
Sunday, March 9, 2025
1:00-3:30 p.m.

Human Development (HD) Federal Advocacy Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Room: Archives Room (Level M4)

<p>1:00 – 1:15 p.m.</p>	<p>WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING OVERVIEW</p> <p>The Honorable Kim Norton, Chair <i>Mayor, City of Rochester, Minnesota</i></p> <p>Introductions, overview of expected outcomes from the meeting, and Board of Directors report.</p>
<p>1:15 – 1:40 p.m.</p>	<p>MENTAL HEALTH FRAMEWORK FEEDBACK DISCUSSION</p> <p>Lourdes Aceves <i>Director, Health and Wellbeing, NLC</i></p> <p>Becky O’Meara <i>Program Manager, Health and Wellbeing, NLC</i></p> <p>Committee members will hear an update on NLC’s mental health framework and engage in a dialogue with program staff to help frame NLC’s future work in this area. Committee members should be prepared to share their local mental health priorities and the challenges faced in addressing these, as well as what are emerging issues in your community.</p>
<p>1:40 – 1:50 p.m.</p>	<p>NLC OFFICER WELCOME</p> <p>The Honorable Kevin Kramer <i>Councilmember, City of Louisville, Kentucky and NLC 1st Vice President</i></p>
<p>1:50 – 2:05 p.m.</p>	<p>NLC ARTS & CULTURE UPDATE</p> <p>Georgia Gempler <i>Program Manager, Health and Wellbeing, NLC</i></p> <p>Committee members will hear an update on NLC’s latest work connecting arts and culture to local wellbeing and economic development initiatives and how their cities can get involved.</p>

2:05 – 2:25 p.m.	<p>STRENGTHENING THE MUNICIPAL WORKFORCE</p> <p>Mike Bartlett <i>Program Director, Postsecondary and Workforce Success, NLC</i></p> <p>Tashfia Hasan <i>Senior Program Specialist, Postsecondary and Workforce Success, NLC</i></p> <p>Committee members will hear an update on NLC’s newly developed municipal workforce framework and participate in a facilitated discussion to share feedback on how this framework addresses cities’ workforce challenges.</p>
2:25 – 2:40 p.m	<p>ECONOMIC MOBILITY RAPID GRANT PROGRAM</p> <p>Patrick Hain <i>Program Director, Economic Opportunity and Financial Empowerment, NLC</i></p> <p>Committee members will learn about NLC’s Economic Mobility Rapid Grant Program and how their city can get involved.</p>
2:40 – 3:00 p.m.	<p>SNAP CHALLENGE</p> <p>Gina Plata-Nino <i>SNAP Deputy Director, Food Research & Action Center</i></p> <p>Committee members will hear from partners at the Food Research & Action Center about potential cuts to federal nutrition funds that will impact local economies and the ways in which city leaders can engage on this important advocacy issue.</p>
3:00 p.m.	<p>WRAP UP AND ADJOURN</p>

Enclosures:

- NLC Policy Development and Advocacy Process
- 2025 Human Development Committee Roster
- Grow Framework
- [Presidential Actions Summary: Impact to Local Governments](#)
- [From the Event: Impacts of Immigration Executive Orders](#)

Next HD Committee Meetings

***April Monthly Zoom – Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 3:00 p.m. eastern
Summer Board and Leadership Meeting – July 15-18 – Columbus, Ohio***

Recommended Congressional City Conference Sessions for HD Committee Members

Monday, March 10th

- 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. – Opening General Session
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Safe Communities: A 360-Degree Perspective
- 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. – Council on Youth, Education and Families
- 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. – Workforce Development Innovation Luncheon
- 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. - Federal Agency and NLC Program Expo
- 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. – Afternoon General Session
- 4:00 - 4:50 p.m. - Unlocking Federal Funding: Find the Keys that Fit Your Community

Tuesday, March 11th

- 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. - Maintaining Momentum in Economic and Workforce Development
- 10:30 – 12:00 – Mayors' Education Taskforce (Mayors Only)
- 12:45 – 2:15 – Luncheon and General Session
- 2:15 – 3:30 p.m. - Federal Agency and NLC Program Expo
- 5:30 – 7: 00 p.m. – Supporting Afterschool and Summer Youth Programs in Your City Reception
- 8:00 – 10:00 p.m. – NLC Evening Reception

NLC POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCACY PROCESS

As a resource and advocate for more than 19,000 cities, towns and villages, the National League of Cities (NLC) brings municipal officials together to influence federal policy affecting local governments. NLC adopts positions on federal actions, programs and proposals that directly impact municipalities and formalizes those positions in the [National Municipal Policy \(NMP\)](#), which guides NLC's federal advocacy efforts.

NLC divides its advocacy efforts into seven subject areas:

- Community and Economic Development
- Energy, Environment and Natural Resources
- Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations
- Human Development
- Information Technology and Communications
- Public Safety and Crime Prevention
- Transportation and Infrastructure Services

For each of the seven issue areas, a Federal Advocacy Committee advocates in support of NLC's federal policy positions. Members of each Committee serve for one calendar year and are appointed by the NLC President.

Federal Advocacy Committees

Federal Advocacy Committee members are responsible for providing input and advocating on legislative priorities and reviewing and approving policy proposals and resolutions. Additionally, Committee members engage in networking and sharing of best practices throughout the year.

Federal Advocacy Committees are comprised of local elected and appointed city, town and village officials from NLC member cities. NLC members must apply annually for membership to a Federal Advocacy Committee. The NLC President makes appointments for chair, vice chairs, and general membership. In addition to leading the Federal Advocacy Committees, those appointed as Committee chairs will also serve on NLC's Board of Directors during their leadership year.

At the Congressional City Conference, Federal Advocacy Committee members are called upon to advocate for NLC's legislative priorities on Capitol Hill, as well as develop the committee's agenda and work plan for the year. Committee members meet throughout the year to further the plan, hear from guest presenters, discuss advocacy strategies and develop specific policy amendments and resolutions. At the City Summit, Committee members review and approve policy proposals and resolutions. These action items are then forwarded to NLC's Resolutions Committee and are considered at the Annual Business Meeting, also held during the City Summit.

Advocacy

Throughout the year, Committee members participate in advocacy efforts to influence the federal decision-making process, focusing on actions concerning local governments and communities. During the Congressional City Conference, Committee members have an opportunity, and are encouraged, to meet with their congressional representatives on Capitol Hill. When NLC members are involved in the legislative

process and share their expertise and experiences with Congress, municipalities have a stronger national voice, affecting the outcomes of federal policy debates that impact cities, towns and villages.



2025 Human Development Federal Advocacy Committee

Leadership

Committee Chair Kim Norton, Mayor, City of Rochester, MN

Vice Chair Michael O'Connor, Mayor, City of Frederick, MD

Vice Chair John Strand, Commissioner, City of Fargo, ND

Members

Denise Adams, Mayor Pro-Tempore, City of Winston-Salem, NC

Anna Albi, Councilmember, City of Cincinnati, OH

Jenne Alderks, Council Member, City of Bothell, WA

Wardine Alexander, Council President Pro Tempore, City of Birmingham, AL

Veronica Bandy-Freeman, Council Member, City of Tarrant, AL

Xouhoa Bowen, Vice Mayor, City of San Leandro, CA

Sheron Brown, Director of Education & Youth Opportunities, City of St. Petersburg, FL

Randal Bruce, Council Member, City of Farmington Hills, MI

Nylene Clarke, City Clerk, City of Pahokee, FL

Jimmy Davis, Vice Mayor, City of Tolleson, AZ

Melissa Dunn, Commissioner, City of Lauderhill, FL

Christine Ellis, Councilmember, City of Chandler, AZ

Rosa Ferraro-Santana, Alder, City of New Haven, CT

Todd Fowler, Mayor, City of Johnson City, TN

Amy Goodwin, Mayor, City of Charleston, WV

April Graves, Mayor, City of Brooklyn Center, MN
Laney Harris, City Director, City of Texarkana, AR
Francisco Heredia, Vice Mayor, City of Mesa, AZ
Berdetta Hodge, Council Member, City of Tempe, AZ
Bowie Hogg, Council Member, City of Arlington, TX
RJ Johnson, Director of Council Affairs, City of Shreveport, LA
LaWana Mayfield, Council Member, City of Charlotte, NC
Danielle McKinney, Council Member, City of Greenbelt, MD
Selonia Miles, Chair Pro Tem, Town of Dumfries, VA
Stefanie Munsterman, Executive Director, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, City of Cedar Rapids, IA
Senayet Negusse, Council Member, City of SeaTac, WA
Emily Norris, Youth Engagement Manager, City of Knoxville, TN
Cara Pelletier, Councilor, City of Bangor, ME
Kelbrey Porter, Grants Department Director, City of Montgomery, AL
Christian Ramirez, Commissioner, Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS
Michael Sandifer, Mayor, City of Shawnee, KS
Tamala Takahashi, Council Member, City of Burbank, CA
Danielle Trumble, Council Member, City of Morgantown, WV
Angelia Washington, Council Member, City of Jacksonville, NC

Growing and Retaining Our Workforce (GROW): A Framework to Support Municipal Workforces

In partnership with the American Institutes for Research (AIR), NLC has developed the following framework which identifies the four key elements that local governments can focus on to develop a comprehensive approach to their workforce challenges and opportunities.

