

## AWC Position

The health and vitality of local economies are critical to a robust and dynamic national economy. Federal fiscal policies should enhance the ability of local elected officials to respond to needs at the local level. Cities rely on federal funding to build infrastructure, support economic development, deliver human services, and ensure public safety. Washington State's economy also includes significant defense bases and investments. With sufficient federal funds, cities can demonstrate a substantial return on investment. This funding must be consistent, stable, and reliable. In addition, Washington cities oppose federal policies that undermine local government regulatory authority, impose unfunded mandates, or preempt local government revenues and revenue authorities.

## Ensure Safe Communities

- Support continued necessary federal funding for programs such as Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER), and Justice Assistance Grants (JAG).

## Maintain Community Development Funding

- Restore funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to \$3.3 billion for FY 2019. CDBG funds assist cities in improving housing, enhancing economic opportunities, investing in water and sewer systems, and retaining businesses. CDBG has been cut by nearly 25 percent, or \$1 billion, since FY 2001.
- Resist reductions to the HOME Investment Partnerships program; fund the program at \$1.2 billion for FY 2019.

## Fund Key Housing and Opioid Addiction Programs

- Support continued necessary federal funding for housing assistance and homelessness programs, including the Homeless Assistance Grant program.
- Provide resources to address the behavioral health system and the national opioid addiction crisis.

## Effective Governance and Federal Budget Adoption

- Congress must fulfill its obligation to adopt a federal budget on a timely basis, and avoid delays and continuing resolutions. Delays lead to inefficiencies at the local level, substantially impact cities' ability to manage projects, and result in unnecessary cost escalation.

## Invest in Infrastructure

- Strengthen, don't diminish, the federal commitment and role in funding our nation's infrastructure; partner with state and local government.
- Acknowledge local decision-making authority in federal, state and local partnerships.
- Promote a multimodal network for the environmental, social, and economic development of our country.
- Ensure the sustainability of both the highway and mass transit accounts within the federal Highway Trust Fund.
- Fund improvements along rail freight corridors, including grade separations and other safety measures; improve rail safety transportation of hazardous materials with a more robust tanker design for volatile cargo; reduce rail speeds through cities and towns.
- Provide adequate, predictable, and long-term funding for airport capital and development projects by increasing the passenger facility charge up to \$4.00.
- Invest in local infrastructure programs, such as the Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Funds.
- Fund communications/broadband infrastructure and provide incentives in all size cities that encourage economic development equity, distance learning, and telecommuting as a Transportation Demand Management strategy.
- Provide flexibility for public-private partnerships (PPP) and private investment recognizing that PPPs are not appropriate for the vast majority of projects in smaller cities.
- Acknowledge recent state and local infrastructure investment; federal programs must recognize and not discount the needs of states and cities that have acted to support infrastructure investment locally.

## Respect State Marijuana Legalization

- Support our state's right to legalize and regulate the marijuana industry.
- Address federal regulatory barriers that impair state's ability to have a well-regulated approach to legislation.

## Contact:

**Peter King**  
CEO  
peterk@awcnet.org • 360.753.4137

**Regina Adams**  
Government Relations Coordinator  
reginaa@awcnet.org

