



LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA 2021 FEDERAL PROGRAM

Adopted March 2, 2021

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
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The County of Loudoun's 2021 Federal Legislative Agenda for the 117th Congress reflects the priorities and policy issues of importance to the County that acknowledge our rich history, and our vision to be a prosperous, inclusive, equitable and sustainable locality where residents feel free to live, work, learn and play. Loudoun County supports legislation, policies and regulatory actions that recognize the important role of local government and equips the County with the resources and flexibility needed to serve our community. The County opposes legislation, policies and regulatory actions that diminishes local decision making, preempts local authority, or imposes unfunded mandates.

LOUDOUN COUNTY PRIORITIES

COVID-19 Long Term and Emergency Funding

Loudoun County supports flexible long-term funding and emergency supplemental funding that supports local governments on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially to address education needs, COVID-19 testing, vaccination distribution, housing and utility needs, public transportation (including operating and capital subsidies for public transit services), and support for small businesses and others (example- airports) needed to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Infrastructure Needs

Loudoun County supports efforts to improve our nation's infrastructure through increased investments, including increased federal funding and matches for projects, that promote economic development, public safety, and mobility. Infrastructure packages considered by Congress must address broadband infrastructure as well as transportation infrastructure needs.

- *Broadband and Cellular Infrastructure*- The lack of broadband infrastructure in Loudoun County has presented significant challenges to residents and businesses. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated challenges as students are educated through distance learning, companies require employees to telework, and doctors schedule telemedicine and telehealth appointments to stop the spread of the virus. The County supports additional grant opportunities, dedicated funding, and technical assistance to assist unserved and underserved areas in delivery of digital infrastructure. The County supports efforts by the federal government to improve the data collection and mapping system, and requests that adequate funding be provided for these efforts. The County supports preserving its local control of right-of-way and siting decisions. The County will continue to monitor regulatory and policy changes by the Federal Communications Commission for impacts and will comment when appropriate.
- *Transportation Infrastructure*- The County supports a major transportation infrastructure stimulus program to create jobs and solve transportation congestion problems. The County supports reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act at increased levels. The County supports additional federal funds to the state for highway construction and improvements, especially to address high dollar road construction projects. The next surface transportation bill should also support major transit state of good repair investments, transit innovations and technologies, as well as expansion projects. The reauthorization bill should be funded by dedicated, sustainable revenues. The County supports Congressional efforts to address the long-term sustainability of the Highway Trust Fund, including the Mass Transit Account.

GSA Per Diem Designation

Reinstate Loudoun County into the Washington D.C. Non-Standard Rate Area (DC NSA). Loudoun was arbitrarily removed from the DC NSA in 2007 and placed in its own NSA.

Federal Dedicated Funding for WMATA

Loudoun County supports efforts to reauthorize dedicated federal funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). In 2008, Congress passed the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act, which authorized dedicated funding of \$1.5 billion over 10 years to WMATA for capital and safety improvements. The County supports reauthorizing dedicated federal funding for operating expenses and state of good repair needs for WMATA and supports additional federal capital and operating funding for WMATA to support a safe, reliable, and high-functioning system for the area. The County will monitor WMATA legislation for impacts on the County.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LEGISLATIVE / POLICY

The County is supportive of the following legislative and policy actions to promote economic development in Loudoun County, and recognizes that other areas of the program such as Transportation and Housing have an impact on economic development within the County and region. This section also outlines items that will be monitored and analyzed and may be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for further direction.

FAA PERIMETER RULE EXEMPTIONS Ensure status quo for perimeter rule exemptions at Reagan National Airport

GSA FEDERAL FACILITIES Ensure that Loudoun County is considered for planned GSA facility relocations and expansions in the National Capital Region

HEMP Support efforts that address market and regulatory barriers to hemp production and processing while balancing public safety concerns., and ensure states become the primary regulators of hemp.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Support initiatives that create new export markets and financing programs
- Support efforts that help attract foreign investment to the County.
- Monitor United States-Mexico-Canada agreement impacts on dairy producers.
- Monitor congressional efforts on comprehensive immigration reform.
- Support efforts that protect worker visas (H-1B, H-2A, H-2B and J-1) necessary to maintain and operate Loudoun businesses.

OPPORTUNITY ZONES Support opportunity zones and revisions to the program that promote participation by more companies and investors by clarifying rules and simplifying the process.

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Support Small Business Administration (SBA) and expand investments in Loudoun by SBA-licensed Small Business Investment Companies.
- Support programming and policies that promote crowdfunding and incentivize private funding.
- Identify and review policy that inhibits small business growth, over-regulation and tax issues that hinder the ability for entrepreneurs to start and grow small businesses.
- Monitor and report on changes to SBA programs and policies.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The County supports efforts that address the disconnect between job training and needs of companies. The County supports reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and the following work development programs:

- Support beginning farmer and minority farmer programs.
- Support programming and policy to support workforce training, retraining and attraction efforts, and apprenticeship programs.

FUNDING

The County supports appropriations that provide for the following priority programs and competitive grants, and will monitor the following federal grant opportunities:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Monitor funding opportunities for affordable housing.

BROADBAND

- Monitor grant opportunities for local governments to deploy broadband.
- Support dedicated funds and/or technical assistance to unserved and underserved areas to assist in delivery of digital infrastructure.
- Support and seek changes in eligibility requirements for grants that would benefit Loudoun.
- Support inclusion of federal funds for broadband deployment in an infrastructure package, not just streamlining principles.

CYBERSECURITY

Monitor grant opportunities for cybersecurity services and technologies to enhance system and data protection and operational resiliency against current and emerging threats such as ransomware and nation-state attacks.

FARMERS MARKETS/COMMUNITY GARDENS

Pursue grants for area farmers markets and community gardens.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Support permanent and increased funding for SelectUSA, which helps attract foreign investment to the County. Support priority programs such as the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

SPECIALTY CROP MULTI-STATE PROGRAM

Continue grant funding to enhance competitiveness of specialty crops.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Support funding for priority programs such as the Department of Labor's (DOL) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for Adult Employment and Training Activities, WIOA Grants for Youth Activities, and WIOA Grants for Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Activities
- Monitor grant opportunities that support beginning farmer and minority farmer programs and vocational training opportunities.
- Support programs that provide funds to local educational agencies for after-school programs dedicated to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)

TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING

LEGISLATIVE / POLICY

The County is supportive of the following legislative and policy actions to promote transportation and housing in Loudoun County. This section also outlines items that will be monitored and analyzed and may be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for further direction.

HOUSING

The County supports Congressional efforts to address the Nation's Housing crisis, including increasing the funding for existing programs and establishing new programs that address providing housing types across all income levels, both rental and home ownership. The County supports actions that would increase neighborhood reinvestment programs in Opportunity Zones, address affordable housing near transit, and allow those who work in the County to live in the County. The County supports efforts that address housing while balancing needs for localities to maintain local land use authority.

FAA POLICIES

- Ensure status quo for perimeter rule exemptions at Reagan National Airport.
- Support the FAA's NextGen investment and implementation plan and other initiatives to support regional aviation.

NEXT GENERATION SYSTEMS

Monitor legislation and efforts that prepare transportation infrastructure to support new technologies, including electric vehicle and autonomous vehicles.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS

Support efforts to reduce regulatory impediments to road construction projects and decrease timelines for completion.

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Support federal policy changes to improve regional traffic incident management by updating regional agreements to increase the consistency of traffic incident management laws.

WOLF ACT

Modify the Wolf Act to mandate that transit labor arbitration awards be consistent with the financial conditions of the negotiating agency.

FUNDING

The County supports appropriations that provide for the following priority programs and competitive grants, and will monitor the following federal grant opportunities:

HOUSING PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND GRANTS

The County, at a minimum, requests Congress maintain funding for current housing programs in the federal budget; maintain/or expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program in the Tax Code, and maintain and/or expand the following programs by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

- HOME Investment Partnerships Program
- Housing Choice Voucher Programs
- Community Development Block Grant

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT GRANTS

- Advocate and support program funding and pursue grant opportunities related to transportation such as the:
 - Department of Transportation (DOT) WMATA grants,
 - DOT BUILD construction and planning grants which target economic development through transportation projects,
 - Bus and Bus Facilities Grants,
 - Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants,
 - Surface Transportation Block Grants/Transportation Alternative Program,
 - Safe Routes to Schools Program, and
 - Highway Safety Improvement Program (HISP) grants for targeted safety initiatives.

BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

Advocate for program funding and pursue grant opportunities, including projects that increase trail access for multi-modal use.

POTOMAC RIVER CROSSING

Monitor opportunities that would provide feasibility studies and funding for regional connectivity in the greater Washington DC area, including but not limited to, a future bridge crossing and a reliable ferry operation.

Homeland Security and Public Safety

LEGISLATIVE / POLICY

The County is supportive of the following legislative and policy actions related to homeland security and public safety. This section also outlines items that will be monitored and analyzed and may be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for further direction.

DISASTER DECLARATIONS AND HAZARD MITIGATION

- Support reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program
- Support more consistent interpretation and application by FEMA region in any FEMA disaster assistance reform.
- Support legislation that supports hazard mitigation assistance and ensures adequate federal funding for local disaster mitigation and relief efforts.
- Support the wildfire prevention and mitigation legislation to help communities recover in the aftermath of a fire and help prevent future fires.

DOMESTIC TERRORISM

Monitor legislation and initiatives that address public safety concerns related to domestic terrorism.

DRUG-RELATED LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- Monitor and report on legislative and regulatory efforts related to the current opioid crisis and other substance abuse disorders.
- Support legislative efforts to improve access to Narcan/Naloxone to help address the opioid crisis.

BODY WORN CAMERAS

Protect against unfunded mandates; ensure that federal funds can be used for related personnel and storage costs.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Monitor and report on criminal justice reform including, but not limited to, legislative and policy efforts that implement the Second Chance Act and address recidivism.

CYBERSECURITY

Support programs and initiatives that advance and improve cybersecurity preparedness and response to current and emerging threats by developing resiliency against attacks, including addressing and funding election security.

FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Support legislation that promotes firefighter health and safety and legislation that promotes increased behavioral health for first responders.
- Support maintenance of OSHA firefighter safety regulations in 2017 rulemaking (29 CFR 1910.156)

FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY

- Support legislation that promotes smoke alarms, fire sprinklers in residential buildings not currently protected, and increased fire prevention and fire safety education. Support efforts that allow for tax credits for sprinklers in townhomes and single-family homes.
- Support changes to the federal tax code that would provide tax credits for businesses that provide building upgrades that incorporate safety features and minimum life safety standards in portions of agritourism buildings or structures used for assembly of 50 people or more.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Support legislation and regulations that support volunteer first responders.

FUNDING

FY 2021 APPROPRIATIONS AND COMPETITIVE GRANTS

The County supports appropriations that provide for the following priority programs and competitive grants, and will monitor the following federal grants opportunities:

LAW ENFORCEMENT/COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS/JUVENILE COURT SERVICES UNIT:

- Priority Programs: Department of Justice Body Worn Camera Grants, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Grants, COPS Hiring Grants, and Office of Juvenile Justice Programs.
- Advocate for Loudoun County to receive High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area funding
- Advocate for JAG grants to be expanded beyond law enforcement to community corrections and ensure that grant solicitations for pass through funds are also expanded.
- Monitor grant opportunities for data storage for body worn cameras.
- Monitor grant opportunities to hire additional deputies.
- Identify and pursue private, foundation grant opportunities to expand Loudoun County Search and Rescue's Project Lifesaver program.
- Monitor grant opportunities to further the goals of the Heroin Operations team, including funds to purchase Narcan/Naloxone.
- Monitor grant opportunities to help advance a mental health docket, including DOJ's Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (with MHSADS)
- Monitor grant opportunities for housing for prisoner reentry. Although there is transitional housing for men reentering society, there is little to no housing available for women reentering society.
- Monitor grant opportunities to help advance Drug Court, to improve probation and parole success rates, support GPS/substance use tracking technologies, and to improve reentry programs.
- Monitor grant opportunities to support transitional housing and other support services for victims of domestic violence.

FIRE AND RESCUE

- Priority Programs: U.S. Fire Administration, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Emergency Management Institute (EMI), and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighter (AFG), Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) and Fire Prevention and Safety Grants, and the Urban Area Security Initiative.
- Support continued funding for the Public Safety Officers Benefit Program, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Traffic Incident Management Program
- Firefighter Health and Safety Funding: Support federal funding for personal protective equipment for firefighters/EMT personnel.
- Response to Drug Overdoses Funding: Support increased funding and grant opportunities for first responders to obtain Narcan/Naloxone, and
- Lab Funding: Support increased funding to Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) labs that would help meet demand of fire investigation efforts. Support funding that would assist state and local crime labs to meet demand.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Priority Programs: Emergency Management Institute, FEMA National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund, FEMA State Homeland Security Grant Program, and FEMA Urban Area Security Initiative.
- National Capitol Region Response: Support initiatives and funding for training needed to strengthen and sustain the National Capital Region's emergency response capabilities.
- Hazard Mitigation: Support programs that fund brush removal and other prevention efforts in open space.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

- In conjunction with Libraries, monitor grant opportunities for a legal resource center where self-represented litigants and others can receive discounted or free legal assistance based on income.
- Monitor funding opportunities for historic court records preservation/archives, including the expansion of preservation of records reflecting Loudoun's Black history collection.

FLOOD MITIGATION

- Monitor grant opportunities that address recurring flooding of property including funding that supports Board direction related to flooding at the Selma Estates Subdivision.

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND PARKS

LEGISLATIVE / POLICY

The County is supportive of the following legislative and policy actions to address the environment, energy, and parks. This section also outlines items that will be monitored and analyzed and may be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for further direction.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

Monitor legislative and regulatory efforts that address climate change and energy and how it corresponds with local and regional programs and goals.

HIDDEN LANE SUPERFUND SITE

Support the county's work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure affected residents are protected from exposure to harmful contaminants and the site is mitigated in a timely and appropriate manner.

FEMA "DEVELOPMENT" ACTIVITIES

Work with FEMA on allowable activities in the riparian buffer in the County's floodplain.

FEMA FLOOD MAPPING

Monitor and report on reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program

WATERS OF THE U.S.

Work in conjunction with the National Association of Counties to ensure that the review of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule exempts local streets, gutters and human-made ditches and encourages consultation and collaboration with state and local governments.

FUNDING

FY 2021 APPROPRIATIONS AND COMPETITIVE GRANTS

The County supports appropriations that provide for the following priority programs and competitive grants, and will monitor the following federal grant opportunities:

CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED Monitor funding opportunities to assist the County in meeting Chesapeake Bay TMDL goals

INTERIOR/EPA FUNDING Advocate for priority program funding for EPA Superfund Program, EPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants, and National Fish and Wildlife Grant Programs

WATER/WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Monitor funding opportunities for the areas in the County that do not have adequate water and/or wastewater infrastructure.
- Monitor and report on the proposed Assistance to Small and Disadvantaged Communities grant identified in the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill and found within the EPA's State and Tribal Assistance Grants Program.

PARKS & RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

- Priority Programs: Department of Interior Historic Preservation Fund
- Monitor grant opportunities to complement disability services provided by Parks and Recreation, such as athletic facilities for disabled children (Miracle League), summer camps and an adaptive playground, and pedestrian and transit accessibility.
- Monitor historic preservation grant opportunities.
- Monitor grant opportunities for land acquisition to provide direct access to water, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Monitor the Recreational Trails Program (Goose Creek Crossing, Broad Run Stream Crossings, Horsepen Run Crossing) and Safe Route to Schools solicitations

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE / POLICY

The County is supportive of the following legislative and policy actions to promote health and human services in Loudoun County. This section also outlines items that will be monitored and analyzed and may be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for further direction.

ELDER JUSTICE Monitor and support legislation that addresses perpetrator prosecution and reform, financial exploitation, and fraud against older adults as well as services for victims.

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT

- Explore options to implement Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for individuals battling substance abuse.
- Support efforts to allow medical professionals to prescribe controlled substances via telemedicine.

MEDICAID FLEXIBILITY FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

- Support greater flexibility in the Medicaid program for incarcerated individuals and suspend rather than terminate their Medicaid coverage. Doing so will allow communities to better coordinate systems of care and treat individuals' illnesses, chronic disease, and pregnancy.

PUBLIC CHARGE Monitor changes to the definition of public charge.

SNAP & WIC BENEFITS Monitor and report on any legislative or executive changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Monitor legislation that expands eligibility of SNAP to students attending institutions of higher education.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Monitor and support implementation of provisions in H.R. 6, "SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act," passed by the 115th Congress that provide greater flexibility in the Medicaid program for incarcerated individuals and request that Loudoun County be part of the study group on best practices for states to consider health care related transitions for inmates of public institutions.
- Monitor and support implementation of provisions of the "SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act" that address parity for behavioral services.
- Monitor legislation that provides a process for addressing employment supports and services for individuals in treatment for a behavioral health disorder.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACCESS Remove barriers that limit access to behavioral health services for all people. Monitor Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, support network adequacy for behavioral health services on par with medical services in plans to treat conditions across lifespan in private (commercial) insurance products, Medicaid Managed Care products, and in Medicare Plans.

SUICIDE PREVENTION Monitor legislation or policy efforts that work to reduce suicide.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN'S ACT Support reauthorization of the Violence Against Women's Act

FY 2021 APPROPRIATIONS AND COMPETITIVE GRANTS

The County supports appropriations that provide for the following priority programs and competitive grants, and will monitor the following federal grant opportunities:

FAMILY SERVICES & HEALTH:

- Priority Programs: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant, HUD Emergency Solutions Grant, Department of Agriculture (USDA) Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, Health and Human Services (HHS) Head Start, HHS Telehealth, and HHS Aging and Disability Services Program Grants to States.
- Monitor funding opportunities to address human trafficking.
- Monitor grant opportunities for education and awareness around elder abuse.
- Monitor grant opportunities stemming from the Family First Prevention Services Act.

MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE & DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES:

- Priority Programs: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration funding and grant programs
- Monitor grant opportunities for training and staffing needs across the continuum for justice involved individuals.
- Monitor grant opportunities for substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery programs with a focus on programs to address substance abuse disorders.
- Explore funding opportunities for needle exchange and drug take-back programs.
- Monitor grant opportunities that fund evidence-based programs or models of integrated behavioral and medical/physical health care.
- Monitor grant opportunities for transportation services for individuals with treatment needs.

OTHER PRIORITIES

EARMARKS

Monitor and report on proposed rules to reinstitute earmarks.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Support legislation and appropriations that increase federal funding for schools.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Support Congressional efforts to ratify the Equal Rights Amendments.

FINANCING & PROCUREMENT

- Support tax-exempt municipal bonds.
- Support Congressional efforts to reinstate tax-exempt advance refunding bonds.
- Monitor and promote changes to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules on per diem travel during the day for those actively working.
- Monitor legislation or regulatory changes that address the Brooks Act (Qualification Based Selection).

2020 CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING

Monitor and report on Congressional and agency efforts related to the 2020 Census and Redistricting.