

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.

Close the Online Sales Tax Loophole

- Enact legislation that would grant states the authority they need to require sellers, regardless of location, to collect sales and use taxes owed to them at the point of destination for the sale per the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement.

Protect Municipal Bonds

- Resist efforts to limit or eliminate the federal income tax exemption on municipal bonds, which will increase local financing costs and decrease infrastructure investments.
- Ensure appropriate regulation of municipal bonds by federal agencies.

Maintain Community Development Funding

- Restore funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program at historic levels of \$4.5 billion. Despite its status as one of the most important and flexible federal funding sources for cities, CDBG has been reduced to \$3 billion annually, approximately 0.5% of non-defense discretionary funding.
- Resist further reductions to the HOME Investment Partnerships program.
- Maintain funding of the Homeless Assistance Grant program to help those who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless.

Invest in Infrastructure

- 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, and improve rail safety transportation of hazardous materials with a more robust tanker design.
- Provide adequate, predictable, and long-term funding for airport capital and development projects by increasing the passenger facility charge.
- Invest in local infrastructure programs, such as the Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Funds, as a way to put people back to work.
- Fund communications infrastructure and provide incentives that encourage telecommuting as a Transportation Demand Management strategy.
- Acknowledge local decision-making authority in federal, state and local partnerships.

Ensure Safe Communities

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

Contact:

Dave Williams

Director of Government Relations
davew@awcnet.org • 360.753.4137

Regina Adams

Government Relations Coordinator
reginaa@awcnet.org

