

Topic: Federal Legislative Update

Robert Rapoza, President, Rapoza and Associates

RAPOZA ASSOCIATES is a public interest lobbying and government relations firm located in Washington, D.C., that specializes in providing comprehensive legislative and support services to community development organizations, associations, and public agencies. Our *clients* are involved in a wide range of community economic development, rural development, low-income housing, education, workforce, finance, and community transportation issues.

We're unusual among Washington lobbyists in bringing to our work extensive hands-on experience with the programs and clients we represent. Staff members have been directly involved in community development work such as providing affordable housing and managing community-based organizations. When we argue the merits of community development on Capitol Hill, we speak from experience.

ROBERT A. RAPOZA, President and principal, has more than two decades' experience as a professional lobbyist and is an expert on the federal budget and appropriations process, with special expertise in federal housing and community development policy. He has been responsible for numerous legislative accomplishments including saving federal rural housing and community development programs from budget cuts, establishing the Intermediary Re-lending Program at the Agriculture Department, sustaining and increasing funding for community development programs at the Department of Health and Human Services, promoting the creation of a YouthBuild program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and, most recently, successfully steering the *New Markets Tax Credit* program to enactment. He first became involved with community development issues while serving with the Massachusetts Department of Community Affairs. After moving to Washington, D.C., he held executive positions with the Rural Housing Alliance, the National Rural Housing Coalition (which he continues to serve as executive secretary and legislative director), and the Rural Coalition before establishing Rapoza Associates in 1984. A graduate of Boston College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, he has served on the boards of several housing and community development organizations and has been profiled in the Washington Post and in the authoritative Beacham's Guide to Key Lobbyists.