



# Urban Serving Universities Urge Congress to Act on Recommendations for Anchor Institutions

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Washington, D.C. – Congress should act now to strengthen anchor institutions in urban areas and build university-community collaborations as recommended by a new HUD report, says the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities.

“This new report makes it clear that the time is ripe to begin strengthening these core institutions as a way to revitalize our urban areas,” said Nancy Zimpher, Chair of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities, a nationwide organization of 38 public urban research universities.

“Retooling HUD for a Catalytic Federal Government: A Report to Secretary Shaun Donovan,” outlines important strategies for HUD to encourage university-community collaborations, including creating an Urban Grant University program modeled after the successful Land, Sea, Space, and Sun Grant programs.

The report also supports the creation of a university-led housing assistance and development program.

Several prominent leaders of the USU Coalition served on the report’s taskforce and helped formulate these policy concepts, which align with USU Coalition’s legislative agenda for HUD during the 111th Congress. USU cosponsored today’s briefing to share the report’s recommendations with Members of Congress and their staffs.

Urban research universities already serve as anchors for many of the Nation’s cities and provide a broad range of skills and resources – intellectual, human, technological, and social. As such, they are uniquely positioned to partner with communities to address local needs and sustain economic prosperity for their regions.

Urban research universities invest more than \$26 billion in research annually as innovators and economic drivers for their regions. They also spend almost \$6 billion annually on public service for their local and regional communities.

The Coalition urges Members of Congress to develop and support legislation on anchor institutions based on the report’s recommendations.

“Reps. Chaka Fattah and Michael Turner, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Congressional Urban Caucus, deserve much praise for hosting this important briefing on the new HUD report,” said Nancy Zimpher.

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University presidents created the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities ([www.usucoalition.org](http://www.usucoalition.org)) in 2005 to focus the intellectual capital and economic power of urban universities on improving both urban life and American competitiveness. USU works in three general areas – creating a competitive workforce, building strong communities, and improving the health of a diverse population.

Arizona State University ◦ California State University, Dominguez Hills ◦ California State University, East Bay ◦ California State University, Fresno  
California State University, Fullerton ◦ California State University, Long Beach ◦ California State University, Los Angeles ◦ California State University, Northridge ◦ California State Polytechnic University, Pomona ◦ Sacramento State University ◦ California State University, San Bernardino  
San Diego State University ◦ San Francisco State University ◦ San José State University ◦ City University of New York, City College of New York  
Florida International University ◦ Georgia State University ◦ Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis ◦ Morgan State University  
North Carolina State University ◦ Ohio State University ◦ Portland State University ◦ Temple University ◦ Tennessee State University  
University of Akron ◦ University of Central Florida ◦ University of Cincinnati ◦ University of Colorado, Denver ◦ University of Houston  
University of Illinois at Chicago ◦ University of Louisville ◦ University of Memphis ◦ University of Minnesota  
University of Missouri, Kansas City ◦ University of New Mexico ◦ University of New Orleans ◦ Virginia Commonwealth University ◦ Wichita State University