

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-5396-N-03]

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for HUD's Fiscal Year 2010 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program

AGENCY: Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, Office of the Deputy Secretary, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

SUMMARY: The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-117, approved December 16, 2009) (Appropriations Act), provided a total of \$150,000,000 to HUD for a Sustainable Communities Initiative to improve regional planning efforts that integrate housing and transportation decisions, and increase the capacity to improve land use and zoning. Of that total, \$100,000,000 is available for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program, \$40,000,000 is available for the Challenge Planning Grant Program, and \$10,000,000 is available for a joint HUD and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) research and evaluation effort. The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program will support metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of: (1) economic competitiveness and revitalization; (2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; (3) energy use and climate change; and (4) public health and environmental impact. Today's notice announces the availability of approximately \$100 million for Sustainable Community Regional Planning Grants. Of this amount, \$2 million will be reserved for capacity support grants distributed separately, and not less than \$25 million shall be awarded to regions with populations

- b. advises local officials of the state government on transportation planning; and
- c. is located in a rural area—

- (1) with a population of less than 50,000; and
- (2) that is not located in an area represented by an MPO.

13. *Social Equity Values.* The term “social equity values” means fair and equal access to livelihood, education, and resources; full participation in the political and cultural life of the community; and self-determination in meeting fundamental needs.

14. *Sustainable Communities.* Urban, suburban, and rural places that successfully integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of: 1) economic competitiveness and revitalization; 2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; 3) energy use and climate change; and 4) public health and environmental impact.

15. *Underserved Populations.* The term “underserved populations” means groups of individuals who fall within one or more of the categories protected under the Fair Housing Act and who are:

- a. of an immigrant population (especially racial and ethnic minorities who are non-English speaking or have limited English proficiency);
- b. in rural populations;
- c. homeless;
- d. persons with disabilities (e.g., physical or mental) who can be historically documented to have been subject to discriminatory practices not having been the focus of federal, state or local fair housing enforcement efforts;

basis for measuring the progress of awardees. These benchmarks will be incorporated within HUD's Logic Model during negotiations.

a. Mandatory Outcomes from the Creation of a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

(1) Creation of regional transportation, housing, water, and air quality plans that are deeply aligned and tied to local comprehensive land use and capital investment plans.

(2) Aligned federal planning and investment resources that mirror the local and regional strategies for achieving sustainable communities.

(3) Increased participation and decision-making in developing and implementing a long range vision for the region by populations traditionally marginalized in public planning processes.

(4) Reduced social and economic disparities for the low-income, minority communities, and other disadvantaged populations within the target region.

(5) Decrease in per capita VMT and transportation-related emissions for the region.

(6) Decrease in overall combined housing and transportation costs per household.

(7) Increase in the share of residential and commercial construction on underutilized infill development sites that encourage revitalization, while minimizing displacement in neighborhoods with significant disadvantaged populations.

(8) Increased proportion of low and very low-income households within a 30-minute transit commute of major employment centers.

b. Additional potential outcomes from establishing a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development include, but are not limited to:

(1) Transformation of isolated, opportunity-poor, highly segregated areas into diverse neighborhoods that are open and accessible to good jobs, good schools and good environments;

- (2) Increased proportion of homes and rental units affordable to a full range of household incomes close to high-quality transit service in urban areas or within traditional town centers in small towns and rural areas;
- (3) Decreased number of neighborhoods with high concentrations of poverty and minority segregation;
- (4) Increased proportion of affordable housing units that have high access to a supermarket or grocery store that provides quality fresh foods;
- (5) Increased proportion of affordable housing units located close to walking trails, parks, green space, and vital amenities such as hospitals and schools;
- (6) More equitable distribution of housing that is affordable to all income levels throughout the target region;
- (7) Improved public health outcomes that result from creating safer, more walkable neighborhoods;
- (8) Decrease in the rate of conversion of undeveloped land into utilization across the region;
- (9) Increase in the share of developed land in rural areas that is tied to existing infrastructure systems;
- (10) Increased use of compact development as a tool for regional planning, either to accommodate population growth or to adjust to population decline within the target area; and
- (11) Increased proportion of the local population adequately prepared to participate in the core economic growth sectors of the region.

B. Review and Selection Process

1. Rating and Ranking. Please refer to the **General Section**.