The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Guide
How to Link Equity to Each Rating Factor

In communities across America, many people have been working to forge the elements of a national agenda for change, reaching across class, race, and ethnicity, and urban and suburban divides. These people have been motivated by a vision of equity—inclusion and fairness for all—recognizing that metropolitan development patterns have not been fair to everyone. Through broad coalitions, their efforts have focused on ensuring that everyone—regardless of where they live—has access to the essential ingredients for economic and social success: living wage jobs, good schools, affordable housing and transportation choices, strong social networks, safe and walkable streets, parks and playgrounds, and nutritious and healthy food.

Under the Obama administration, a framework of regional equity has been a driving force behind the larger federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities made up of HUD, the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The partnership has now issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for a new Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program (SCRPG) that will formalize as federal policy the very strategies that equity advocates have been seeking to advance at the community level for years. The NOFA, announced June 24, gives communities until August 23 to submit their applications. Applications must take into account the dual priorities of the Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) which are:

- The Six Livability Principles articulated by the partnership that have been incorporated as a guiding framework in the NOFA.
- Department of Housing and Urban Development's Five Strategic Goals of the Strategic Plan for FY2010-2015.

Much thought has been given to incorporating the input of low-income residents and people of color in shaping the future investments and development of their regions. Applicants must show a process for community involvement through the inclusion of a consortium.

This guide has been developed to help the applicant consortium, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and community advocates submit competitive, equity-focused proposals with the goal of transforming low-income neighborhoods into communities of opportunity, rich with resources for all. It reflects the best efforts of PolicyLink to characterize the guidelines, priorities, and definitions created by HUD. Except where directly quoting HUD, it represents an independent attempt to offer understanding, interpretation, and advice. To make it easier to follow, the guide has been organized according to the five Rating Factors of the NOFA. As you go through the document, you will be guided through the required HUD Form 2010 (6-2010), aligned to the Rating Factors. Note that the text underlined in blue is a hyperlink that will direct you to online resources.

The Basics
Threshold Requirements

"To receive an award of funds, applicants must meet all threshold requirements contained
in HUD's Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Policy Requirements
and General Section to HUD's FY 2010 NOFA's for Discretionary Programs (commonly
referred to as the *General Section*)."

➔ **Applications must meet all the threshold requirements to be considered by HUD.**

Abstracted from page 29 of the NOFA, the threshold requirements are the following:

(1) Provide a minimum of 20 percent in leveraged funds or in-kind contributions of the total grant
funds requested. (pg 29 of the NOFA)

(2) Include a local government, MPO, and a nonprofit, foundation, or educational institution. Each
member of the consortium must submit proof of partnerships.

(3) Select one of the three population size applicant types: Large Metropolitan Regions, Medium-Sized
Regions, or Smaller Regions (i.e. rural and small town areas). A map of your region is required. To
define your region's boundaries, HUD has provided guidance on defining your region's boundaries.

(4) Request funding amounts that fall within the parameters set by HUD. The NOFA establishes grant
thresholds in line with the three applicant types listed above:

- For large metropolitan areas with a population of 500,000 or more, the minimum grant amount
is $500,000 and the maximum is $5,000,000.
- For medium metropolitan areas with a population of 200,000 to 499,999, the minimum grant
amount is $200,000 and the maximum is $2,000,000.
- For rural and small town areas with a population below 200,000, the minimum grant amount is
$100,000 and the maximum is $1,000,000.

(5) Select only **one funding category** as applying for both will deem the proposal ineligible. No one
entity may be the lead applicant under more than one SCRPG.

Additional Requirements
HUD's General Section (summarized on page 30 of the SCRPG NOFA)

1. Resolution of Outstanding Civil Rights Matters
2. Compliance with Fair Housing and Civil Rights Laws
3. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

RATING FACTOR #1: ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (10 Points)
Strengthening Inter-Jurisdictional Partnerships

The goal of this grant is to build inter-jurisdictional partnerships that plan for future sustainability of the region. Specifically, the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) requires a "nonprofit organization, foundation, or educational institution within the region that has the capacity to engage a diverse representation of the general population, and the ability to work in partnership with the units of general local government and the MPO or MPOs comprising a consortium to advance the program objectives of the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant." A nonprofit organization could be the lead agency. The lead agency will need to handle all financial arrangements and sign a cooperative agreement with HUD.

Nonprofits whose expertise in facilitating participatory processes, equity-based analysis, and/or who represent critical under-served neighborhoods or constituencies in the region will be especially valuable to the consortium. It is important to provide details about these strengths and contributions in Section 2 which asks for descriptions of partners' activities and commitments. HUD will be looking for consortium representatives that have specific experience in working with or representing communities that are targeted for revitalization by the plan. (See page 38 in the NOFA.)

If you are an MPO or jurisdiction and are taking the lead in forming the consortium, begin conversations now -- during the grant-writing process. This will give the application greater credibility and maximize the points scored in this section. It is important that communities of color and low-income groups are integral to determining the composition of the consortium, the decision-making processes it will use, and crafting the vision that will be written into the grant application.

If you are a community-based organization (CBO) who wants to participate in a leadership way in planning for your region, you should contact your MPO immediately to join their process or recruit their participation in planning for a grant.

CHECKLIST: FORMING THE CONSORTIUM

- ❑ **Ensure partners have expertise and a proven track record working with low-income people and communities of color.**

- ❑ **Ensure that community-based organizations actually have the support of the constituency they claim they represent.** Consider asking the organization's constituency for letters of support.

- ❑ **Equity-focused community-based organizations should constitute at least one-third of participants in the governance structure established for the regional planning process.** This might include organizations, educational institutions, foundations, or coalitions with proven social equity leadership.

- ❑ **Invite public health partners and experts** who are working on healthy food access, health disparities/health equity, air quality, clean drinking water, crime/public safety, and comprehensive planning for people re-entering from jails and prisons.

❑ **Structure the budget to support the participation of critical equity-based groups.** Community organizations could strengthen the consortium's community engagement strategy and equity focus. Consider the NOFA's allowance of sub-grantees to receive regional planning grant funds. Or recruit local foundations to support nonprofit participation.

❑ **Identify the lead applicant and partnership structure to manage the consortium effectively.** The lead applicant is not required to take charge of the consortium, but is responsible for being the primary administrative contact with HUD. Note that HUD has left the governance framework for your consortium open and is prioritizing innovative partnership structures.

CHECKLIST: FOR EQUITY ADVOCATES
Getting a Seat at the Table

Regions interested in submitting SCI proposals are already lining up players and working on details.
If you are a community group and want to be involved in the planning process, consider these first steps.

→ *There is a tight time frame for applying, so do not delay!*

❑ **Step 1: Do your homework**
Read the NOFA. Become familiar with the basics - the overall purpose of the grant, possible outcomes, and deadlines involved. Think about the interests your organization represents. What can you contribute to the planning process? What goals would you like to achieve through the grant?

❑ **Step 2: Line up allies**
Who would be natural partners with you in this process? Consult with other equity advocates and community-based organizations representing people of color and/or low-income residents. See if they are interested. Are they already talking with key local or regional government agencies and officials about these possible grants? Develop a joint plan for approaching planners, or at the very least, coordinate your approaches, if others want to do this separately. Groups will need sufficient numbers and political power to be able to get a seat at the table.

❑ **Step 3: Financing**
HUD has allowed lead applicants to be sub-grantees for funds. Before approaching relevant jurisdictional or planning staff, draft a budget for how much your programmatic staff will need to help facilitate in the planning process and community engagement. HUD is requiring a separate budget for partners who expect to receive more than 10 percent of the federal budget request. (See page 21 of this guide for additional notes on the budget).

❑ **Step 3: Approach relevant jurisdictional or planning staff**
To identify your local MPO(s), click here. Once identified, decide how you want to approach the relevant MPO(s) that are required to be involved and inquire if they are participating in the SCI planning grants.

→ ***If the planning agency is applying***, *ask what their time frame is and what process they have in place for involving community-based organizations (CBOs) and other groups. If you feel that process is unclear or inadequate, make some suggestions. State your interest in being a formal member of the consortium.*

→ ***If the planning agency is NOT*** *applying, begin a dialogue for next year. $688 million in funds have been marked up in the appropriation bills before Congress for FY 2011, so start some long-term relationship building now.*

BEST PRACTICES IN ACTION

Involving equity coalitions in regional planning

In **Denver**, a 12-year, $6.2 billion public transportation expansion plan for the region, FasTracks, will build six new transit lines and 57 new stations by 2017. Front Range Economic Strategy Center, Making Connections-Denver, Metropolitan Organizations for People, and Project Wise developed a community engagement initiative around two stations for Denver Housing Authority residents and surrounding community members. Through the establishment of Resident Advisory Committees (RAC) in 2006, the effort engaged hundreds of residents and resulted in the adoption of a list of Community Principles (such as preventing displacement, and creating economic opportunities) to guide redevelopment efforts. See the principles here.

In post-Katrina **New Orleans**, two critical plans have been developed to steer federal infrastructure investment and neighborhood redevelopment: a Unified New Orleans Plan that brought together neighborhoods into 13 planning districts to outline priority infrastructure investments; and a New Orleans Master plan to guide zoning and future development. While the City of New Orleans, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation supported the community engagement and shared governance model for the Unified Plan, the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation hired a community organizer and gave grants to neighborhood organizations in communities of color to ensure their engagement and advocacy on behalf of their neighborhoods in the Master Planning. Robust affordability and local business goals came out of the deep reach into neighborhoods.

Listening to the community

Boston MPO has created a participatory process by which it assesses community transportation needs. Information about the transportation needs of minority and low-income populations is primarily collected through small-group interviews and meetings with community contacts, and through larger MPO focus groups or forums. The MPO initiates one-on-one or small-group interviews at the offices of representatives of community organizations to discuss transportation needs and burdens. Information and surveys are mailed to community contacts prior to these meetings to help participants prepare. These materials are also sent to those who are unable to schedule time for an interview but could provide information useful to the MPO´s planning process.

►**For more details about the Boston MPO's holistic approach to integrating equity concerns throughout its planning and implementation process, see:**
(http://www.ctps.org/bostonmpo/3_programs/4_regional_equity/equity.html).

FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION

The application for Rating Factor One totals a possible 10 points, and contains two sub-parts:

(1) Key Personnel: Organizational Capacity and Qualification (7 points)
(2) Partners: Capability and Qualifications (3 points)

This form will address the consortium's capacity to effectively implement the proposed activities that are within a feasible and timely manner. The personnel you list will be reviewed holistically with the required narrative for this factor and evaluated by the quality of the organizational structure. The Key Personnel should be reflected in the budget form (HUD Form-424-CBW) of Factor Rating Three.

Factor I – Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Experience **PolicyLink examples in BLUE**

1. Key Personnel			
Name and Position Title (please include the organization position titles in addition to those shown)	Percent of Time Proposed for this Grant	Percent of Time to be spent on other HUD grants	Percent of time to be spent on other activities
1.1 Overall Project Director			
Name: Organization Position Title: Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development	20%	35%	45%
1.2 Day-to-Day Program Manager			
Name: Organization Position Title: MPO Urban Planner	90%		10%
1.3 Other			
Name: Organization Position Title: CBO Community Engagement Liaison	95%	5%	

NOTE: HUD is particularly interested in the consortium's past experiences and background in preparing and implementing regional housing, transportation, and related infrastructure plans.

→ **Applicants must provide an organizational chart, evidence of a memorandum of agreement, or other proof of commitment to work together, and bios or resumes within their grant appendix.**

Within the narrative of Factor One, the applicant must provide evidence of the experience and accomplishment of the members within the consortium. The experience of each person must demonstrate an ability to meaningfully contribute to developing and implementing multi-jurisdictional projects. This must include experience indicative of effective community outreach efforts involving minority, limited English-speaking populations, low-income persons, and persons with disabilities. Keep in mind that the key personnel and partners included in this factor must be appropriate and possess the commensurate experience to the planning and implementation of the grant proposal. The function of each individual must be in line with the **necessary needs of the plan and eligible budgetary allotments.**

Note: Substitution of Sustainable Communities funds for funding already pledged to support other planning activities or programs is restricted (pg 37 of the NOFA).

2. Partners [PolicyLink examples are in blue]			
Name and contact information	Description of Commitment	Proposed Activities to be Conducted by Partner	Resource and leveraged resource commitment ($ value for services)
Name: Organization Position Title: Regional Transit Authority Director Sub-recipient: ☐ Yes ☐ No		To plan for better transit access between transit dependent communities and job centers.	
Name: Public Health Department Environmental Justice Officer Organization Position Title: Sub-recipient: ☐ Yes ☐ No		Identify health disparity hotspots and plan for health mitigations; involve universities' schools of public health and public hospitals; engage residents from hot spot areas to participate in mitigation strategies.	
Name: Organization Position Title: Regional Housing Coalition Sub-recipient: ☐ Yes ☐ No		Develop analysis of housing need across region, plan for housing investment to meet affordability needs, plan for greening of housing in low-income communities.	
Name: Organization Position Title: Fresh Food Access Coalition Sub-recipient: ☐ Yes ☐ No		Develop plan for regional healthy food access.	

RATING FACTOR #2: NEEDS/EXTENT OF PROBLEM (10 points)
Focus on Demographics and Targets

The data requirements for Factor Two are crucial. The NOFA requires a description of existing social, economic, and environmental conditions that demonstrate why the region would benefit from comprehensive planning. Using thorough and innovative approaches to your community or region's needs assessment will build the basis for enabling equity-based strategies. Applicants are required to buttress their narrative description with quantitative and qualitative data for 10 specific indicators provided in the Ratings form, with data sources supplied by HUD. HUD also encourages applicants to use additional indicators to describe the regional context and provides a list of 22 additional measures in the NOFA. The agency suggests using data to explain the unique characteristics of historically marginalized populations or communities.

A Few Tips

To understand how vulnerable groups are faring in terms of access to regional opportunity, it is important to further disaggregate the data by race/ethnicity, income, and other relevant demographic groupings. Doing so will allow you to identify and document disparities which might not be evident to the consortium or the grant reviewers if aggregate numbers are used, and to track how conditions change over time. Not all of the data points will be available at a disaggregated level, but many are.

Community mapping with GIS can be a powerful tool to assess differences among the neighborhoods, communities, and cities within the region and inform strategies for change. A geographic information system (GIS) integrates hardware, software, and data to enable users to access, analyze, disseminate, and display spatial data. GIS can be used to designate communities of concern, such as low-income neighborhoods or communities of color, and analyze them in terms of specific livability measures (e.g., transit access, supermarket access, proximity to parks, air quality, etc.). Metropolitan planning organizations use GIS to analyze data and test different investment scenarios, and many city and county agencies and departments also use GIS. In many regions, data intermediaries exist that can help community organizations access and use geographic data. Thirty-four of them are part of The Urban Institute's National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership**.**

One data intermediary, The Reinvestment Fund, offers a nationwide web-based GIS system called PolicyMap that provides data on demographics, real estate, city crime rates, health, schools, housing affordability, employment, energy, and public investments at multiple geographic levels, and allows users with paid subscriptions ($100/year) to upload and map their own data sets.

For more background on community mapping and GIS, click on the text below:

- → Community Mapping Tools
- → Using GIS to Support Advocacy and Social Justice
- → Transforming Community Development with Land Information Systems
- → Using Maps to Promote Health Equity

Contact other government agencies to find additional data, such as the county assessor for property data and the local labor and economic development agency for data on jobs and employment.

Consider adding additional specific indicators of inequity and neighborhood level opportunity indicators.

Be aware of the limitations of data analysis. The What Works Collaborative authored**,** *"Building Environmentally Sustainable Communities."* The report offers a thorough analysis of the following data limitations:

(1) Using only universally available data can narrow the scope of measurement and potentially limit accuracy.
(2) Using static, rather than dynamic, indicators ignores trends and projections.
(3) Not explicitly including racial and economic segregation limits analysis.
(4) Failing to break down subsidized housing by families, elderly, and disabled may overstate inclusion.
(5) Not controlling for income in transit usage may over or understate potential transit usage.

Equity advocates should be actively involved in deciding how the statement of need will be written.
People who live outside of the marginalized communities that will be part of the grant's scope and/or data experts may not be aware of the assumptions they bring to their characterization of the challenges/problems a particular people of color or low-income community faces. Ideally, at least some of the relevant data should be obtained through participatory research. At a minimum, the statement of need should be vetted through groups representing people of color and low-income communities in the region.

While the application requires a statement of need, also plan to incorporate asset mapping in the process. People who live in under-resourced communities also live in places rich with culture, history, and key community institutions and assets. By mapping the assets of communities, the plan to address disparities can build on the strengths.

BEST PRACTICES IN ACTION

Community Mapping
In 2006 the Front Range Economics Strategy Center (FRESC) teamed up with the Colorado Community Collaborative (CCOC), made up of a group of seven community organizations that represent nine different counties in Colorado, to produce the *Denver Atlas II: A Region in Transformation*. Each of these member organizations use grassroots community organizing as a primary strategy, with a strong emphasis on membership-driven self governance. Together they produced an illustrative visual mapping that captured the social, economic, and political dynamics of the region. The image below is an example of how Census Data can be disaggregated to present gentrification pressures in Denver's LA Alma Park Neighborhood:

Each dot = one household earning over $100,000
(per census block group; dots distributed randomly
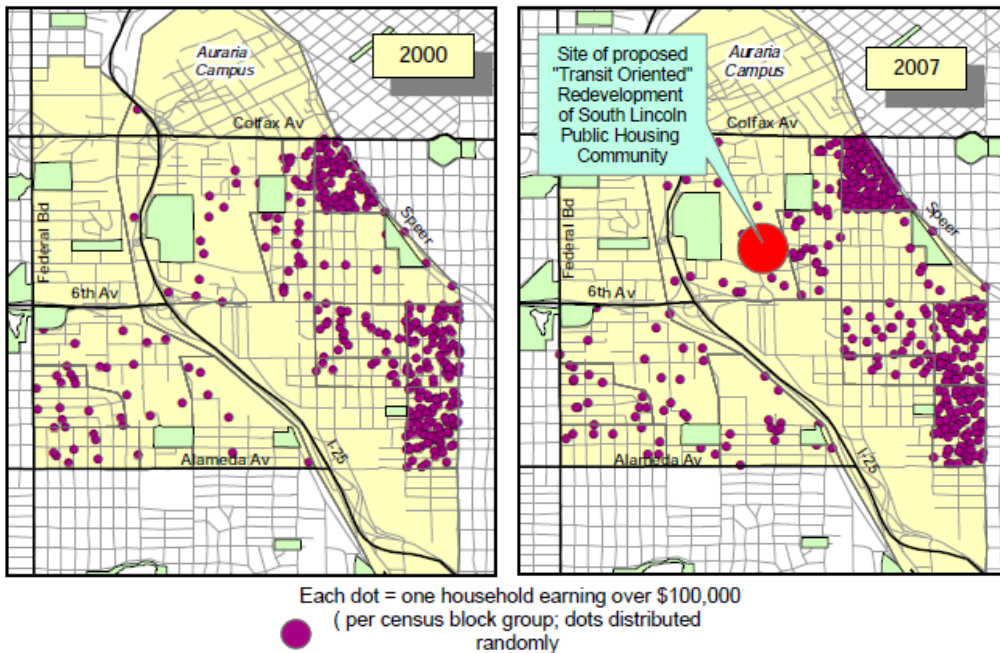
► **The Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF) in Portland, Oregon has built a regional *Equity Atlas*. To view it, go to: http://equityatlas.org. In addition, CLF has drafted a corresponding *Equity Action Agenda* which is based on the community mapping process: http://equityatlas.org/actionplan.html.**

►**The Colorado Community Collaborative has also put together *The Denver Atlas: A Region in Living Color*. To view this document, go to: http://www.fresc.org/article.php?id=142.**

FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION

The application for Rating Factor Two totals a possible 10 points with an additional two points for regions that are within an area of severe economic distress. The rating factor contains eight categories that will help guide you in using data to define the scope and extent of your region's need. HUD has defined "need" within the following eight categories:

(1) Housing Costs	(5) Economic Opportunity
(2) Environmental Quality	(6) Fresh Food Access
(3) Transportation Access	(7) Healthy Communities
(4) Socioeconomic Inequality	(8) *Severe Economic Distress

To guide you through this process we have listed HUD's recommended data source and provide suggestions for each category.

* Refer to page 41 of the NOFA to understand the necessary data requirements.

Factor 2 – Need and Extent of the Problem

For categories 1-3, data must be collected for 1990, 2000, and 2009.

➔ **If the data does not exist** for the area in question, HUD recommends using a weighted average. For further data clarification by HUD, click here.

➔ **Note: The links provided within the "location of data" box are the links provided by HUD, marked in RED.**
Additional links suggested by **PolicyLink** will be marked in **BLUE**.

1. Housing Costs			
1.1 Median Regional Housing Prices Relative to Household Income		**1.2 Proportion of Regional Population Paying More than 45% of Income to Combined Housing and Transportation Costs**	
Input:	Rent, income, housing price data	Input:	Housing, transportation, income data
HUD Source:	Federal Housing Finance Agency	**HUD Source:**	Center for Neighborhood Technology Housing + Transportation Affordability Index
Location of Data:	http://htaindex.cnt.org/	Location of Data:	http://htaindex.cnt.org/
Suggested Indicator: Housing burden (rental and owner-occupied) by income group/racial and ethnic group. **Suggested Source:** HUD and local housing department statistics.		**Suggested Indicator**: Break down by: neighborhood – where are people paying more? And by income and race/ethnicity: who is paying more. **Suggested Source:** HUD and local housing department statistics.	

2. Environmental Quality			
2.1 Urbanized Land per Capita		**2.2 Total Miles of Distribution of Water Infrastructure per Population Served**	
Input:	Population, urbanized land data	Input:	Population, water infrastructure data
HUD Source:	U.S. Census, EPA distillation	**HUD Source:**	Local Utilities Companies and the U.S. Census
Location of Data:	HUD SCI User Database	Location of Data:	varies
		HUD Suggestion: Contact local utility companies for data on water distribution infrastructure	
Suggested Indicator: Sum of common chemical releases (lead, nitric acid, mercury, etc.). Estimated total respiratory frisk from air toxins. **Suggested Source:** EPA Toxic Release Inventory or the National Air toxics Assessments (NATA).		**Suggested Indicator:** Residential and gross per capital water use. **Suggested Source:** US Census and local water/utilities data.	

3. Transportation Access	
3.1 Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita	**3.2 Portion of Regional Trips: Automobile, Transit, Walking, and Bicycling**

Input:	Road infrastructure, population, vehicle miles traveled	Input:	Trip share data
HUD Source:	FHWA highway stats, U.S. Census	**HUD Source:**	American Community Survey
Location of Data:	http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/ohpi/hss/hsspubs.cfm	Location of Data:	http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html
HUD Suggestions:	DOT has developed 'Miles Traveled' statistics in urbanized areas; this data is available in Excel format here.	**HUD** Suggestions:	The data presented on this website does not measure all trips, only commuting behavior (journey-to-work). This data is also bundled into the SCI state reports generated by the HUD SCI User Database.

Suggested Indicator: Percent of commuters commuting to work by public trans + percent of commuters commuting to work by walking. **Suggested Source:** U.S. Census.

---

4. Socioeconomic Inequality

4.1 Segregation by County

4.2 School Lunch Eligibility

Data Needs:	2009 Black/White Dissimilarity Index	2009 Asian/White Dissimilarity Index	2009 Hispanic/White Dissimilarity Index

HUD Source: http://www.s4.brown.edu/cen2000/SchoolPop/SPDownload.html; SUNY Albany National Center for Education Statistics; http://www.nces.ed.gov/.

PolicyLink Suggestions: For further suggestions, click here: http://www.urban.org/publications/412088.html.
The School Data Direct is another possible source for measuring socioeconomic inequity within schools, http://www.schooldatadirect.org/.

Suggested Indicators: (1) Percent of elementary schools proficient in state and reading and math tests; (2) Percent of elementary school students on free and reduced lunch; (3) Number of violent crimes per thousand people; (4) Number of property crimes per thousand people. **Suggested Source:** FBI Uniform Crime Report (2008).

---

5. Economic Opportunity

5.1 Availability of Subsidized Affordable Housing near Employment Centers
(Note: please list the five largest employers and the housing conditions related to it)

Data Needs:	employment center (name / SIC designation)	# of employees	number of housing units within 2 miles of the employment center	% of housing near employment center that is subsidized

HUD Source: This data is locally collected.

PolicyLink Suggestions: Census Zip Business Patterns (2006), BLS Occupational Training Data.

Suggested Indicators: (1) Growth rate for jobs at "associates degree" level between 1998 and 2005 within five–mile radius; (2) Number of jobs within five-mile radius divided by number of people at or below 60 percent AMI within five-mile radius.

---

6. Fresh Food Access

6.1 Proximity of Full-Service Grocery Stores for Low-Income and Auto-Dependent Households

Data Needs:	% households with no car and > 1 mile to grocery store	% low-income people living > 1 mi to grocery store

HUD Source :The USDA Food Environment Atlas http://www.ers.usda.gov/foodatlas/.

PolicyLink Suggestions: Think about the qualitative assessment of the grocery stores within your region (e.g., quality, types of foods, etc.) to include in the descriptions of your narrative statement. For further guidance, the USDA has developed the Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Suggested Indicator: (1) Proportion of retail establishments that accept state/federal food assistance programs; (2) Density of fast food outlets; for additional Fresh Food Access indicators, <u>click here.</u></td></tr>
</table>

7. Healthy Communities						
7.1 Prevalence of Preventable Disease						
Race:	**White**	**Native American**	**African American**	**Hispanic**	**Asian American/ Pacific Islander**	**Other**
Indicator	Incidence Per 1000	Incidence Per 1000	Incidence Per 1000	Incidence Per 1000	Incidence Per 1000	Incidence Per 1000
Asthma Hospitalization						
Childhood Obesity						
Diabetes						
Heart Disease						
Lead Poisoning						
Low Birth Weight						

HUD Source: County and State Health Departments are the primary source. For other data sets, see http://www.communityhealth.hhs.gov.

PolicyLink Suggestions: For further recommendations, review *Strategies for Enhancing the Built Environment to Support Healthy Eating and Active Living* -- the first of four policy briefs authored by Prevention Institute for the Convergence Partnership. For more additional tools, see *The Transportation and Health Toolkit*.

Suggested Indicators: (1) Street tree population; (2) Proportion of sidewalk lengths with pedestrian scale lighting; (3) Number of hospital beds per 100,000/total population. For additional Healthy Communities Indicators, <u>click here</u>.

CASE STUDY: Public Health Planning – Putting the Public Back in Planning!

San Francisco Department of Public Health Director of Occupational and Environmental Health Rajiv Bhatia makes the case that overlooked departments, such as public health, can play a critical role in strengthening favorable outcomes in local and regional plans and can be important champions for addressing equity concerns, working side-by-side with community-based groups. In fact, using a highly participatory process, San Francisco has pioneered the development of a consensus-based "Healthy Development Measurement Tool" to assess the impact of development on individuals and neighborhoods.

San Francisco now conducts health impact assessments (HIA) as a matter of course. This innovative tool was used, for example, in influencing road pricing policies in San Francisco. Different pricing policy options were evaluated based on the following factors: air pollution exposure; environmental noise exposure; pedestrian and vehicle injuries; physical activity; and, household finance. The department also was behind new regulations for healthy smart growth. One example: "Sensitive Use Protections for Traffic Hot Spots" requires mitigation if site specific air quality modeling identifies areas that meet or exceed a certain threshold level. Bhatia has offered seven strategies public health agencies and communities can use to re-integrate public health and planning:

1. Identify health needs and assets.
2. Establish healthy planning objectives and indicators of progress.
3. Engage and collaborate with the planning sector.
4. Provide technical support for community interests.
5. Ensure accountability to health-protective laws.
6. Conduct health impact assessments.
7. Develop and enforce health protective regulations.

RATING FACTOR #3: SOUNDNESS OF APPROACH (55 points)
Bringing it All Together

To score well within Rating Factor Three, it is essential that the proper entities, interests, and values of the community are fully represented in order to develop a comprehensive and inclusive sustainability plan to be subsequently reflected in the proposed budget. An eligible applicant under the grant program is a consortium of units of government, regional planning agencies, nonprofit organizations, and allied public and private sector partners that seek to develop a regional plan. Note that all applicants' consortium must include the local MPO, except in rural regions. Congress has required that a minimum of $25 million of the grant funds be set aside for regions with less than 500,000. For populations less than 200,000, HUD has created a separate funding category.

More than half of the scoring evaluations will depend on this rating factor. Thereby, the required narrative of this rating factor must directly address the two program priorities (i.e., the Six Livability Principles and HUD's Strategic Goals) in addition to demonstrating sufficient capacity and strategies that are developed by the needs of your region's constituency. The majority of points will deal with the quality and cost effectiveness of your plan and the consortium's ability to actively engage outside organizations. It is explicitly stated in the NOFA that HUD has placed priority on applicants' ability to build capacity and share knowledge among members within the consortium and across its broader region.

The tasks ahead are far-reaching and nuanced, calling upon a wide variety of skill sets. **HUD has recognized that regions are in different states of readiness with differing capacities to engage in planning for a sustainable and inclusive future.** Consequently, the NOFA creates two distinct funding categories:

Category One: Those applicants that do not have a regional plan with a 20 year horizon. The goal for Category One applicants is to develop a regional plan for sustainable development.

Category Two: Those regions that already have an existing regional plan that integrates transportation, housing, and land use planning that guide transportation, housing, and other investment decisions. The goal for Category Two is to develop a detailed execution plan.

Aside from the required budget form (i.e., HUD-424-CBW) found in the grant's application packet, HUD has not provided a detailed walk-through of Factor Three's requirements. The remainder of this section has organized these requirements for Rating Factor Three into the following three phases:

(1) **PHASE I: Developing the Plan**
(2) **PHASE II: Finance & Budgeting**
(3) **PHASE III: Addressing the Priorities**

The chart on the following page breaks down these phases and provides a summary of the partnership objectives and required components for Rating Factor Three.   The chart illustrates the 55- point distribution for this hefty rating factor.

OBJECTIVES AND RATING STRUCTURE

> "*The goal of the partnership is to support metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing and land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of* (1) **economic competiveness** *and* **revitalization**; (2) **social equity, inclusion,** *and* **access to opportunity**; (3) **energy use** *and* **climate change**; *and* (4) **public health** *and* **environmental impact**."

CATEGORY ONE

Planning & Visioning	Point Distribution
General Description of the Proposed Sustainable Regional Plan	**10 pts**
Process to Develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development	**17 pts**
Governance and Management (Leadership Structure; 5pts)*	**15 pts**
Project Implementation Schedule	**5 pts**

*Crucial equity score on governance structure!

CATEGORY TWO

Implementation of a Plan	Point Distribution
General Description of Proposed Execution Plan and Program for a Sustainable Regional Plan	**10 pts**
Process to Improve Your Existing Sustainable Regional Plan or Vision	**17 pts**
Governance and Management (Leadership Structure; 5pts)*	**15 pts**
Project Completion Schedule	**5 pts**

Budget Proposal (10 line items)	
The budget form should reflect the planning or implementation process.	**3 pts**

Budget Proposal (10 line items)	
Examples of Budget Items include: Direct labor costs, Fringe benefits, travel, and sub-grantees Note that all categories within the HUD 424 CBW Form do not need to be filled out.	**3 pts**

HUD'S Policy Priorities	

1. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing
  a. Increase the skills and technical expertise of partner organizations
  b. Share knowledge amongst partners
2. Expand cross cutting policy knowledge
	5pts

HUD'S Policy Priorities	

1. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing
  a. Increase the skills and Technical Expertise of partner organizations
  b. Share knowledge amongst partners
2. Expand cross cutting policy knowledge
	5 pts

TOTAL	**55**

TOTAL	**55**

Visioning, Planning, and Implementation

With an emphasis on the first two, grant funds are eligible to undertake the following 11 activities (for further clarification, see NOFA pages 25-28):

1. **Establish coordinated intergovernmental planning and secure collaborative agreements among jurisdictions.**

2. **Develop a comprehensive Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD)**

    HUD requires that at a minimum the RPSD should explain how the plan will:

    - ✓ Adopt a Housing Plan
    - ✓ Incorporate Equity and Fair Housing
    - ✓ Advance Regional Transportation Planning
    - ✓ Advance Water Infrastructure Planning

    - ✓ Plan for Equitable Economic Development
    - ✓ Conduct Scenario Planning Exercises
    - ✓ Conduct Comprehensive
    - ✓ Climate Change Impact Assessments

To prepare the RPSD, HUD has allowed the funding for the following support activities:

3. Identify immediate and long-term policies.

4. Align infrastructure investment to ensure equitable land use planning.

5. Ensure public decision making and meaningful resident participation.

6. Identify measures to track the progress toward creating sustainable communities.

7. Strengthen management and decision-making capacities.

8. Engage in site-specific planning and design of capital projects or programs.

9. Preparation of administrative and regulatory measures.

10. Studies and research on the legal authority.

11. Technical planning studies.

General Description of the Proposed Plan (10 points)

In this section, HUD has advised that applicants include a discussion of the following items

(for specific guidelines, see NOFA pages 44, 48):

- ❑ How do jurisdictions and partner organizations intend on addressing the **interdependent challenges** that involve, but are not limited to: housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, energy efficiency, and water infrastructure?

- ❑ **Identify challenges and needs inherent to the consortium** or Regional Plan, and how will each be addressed?

- ❑ **Identify the inequities revealed** under Rating Factor Two and assemble indicators, maps, and community meetings to derive the equitable outcomes.

- ❑ How will equity translate into the **Six Livability Principles**?

- ❑ What role will **scenario building** play in the visioning and planning process?

- ❑ What will the plan contribute to the **regional economic assets**? How will these assets advance sustainability?

➔ *Looking Ahead*

The proposed plan must respond to the needs demonstrated under Rating Factor Two.

The data gathered for Factor Rating Two will inform the proposed outcomes of the regional plan (Rating Factor 5), which should align to the Six Livability Principles and HUD's Strategic Goals. The chart below illustrates the required overlays within the grant program.

Mandatory Outcomes	Regional Plan	The Six Livability Principles	HUD's Strategic Goals

Process to Develop or Improve a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD) (17 points)

The objective of a multi-level regional planning process is to successfully integrate community input and a set of deliverables from community and municipal-levels into a unified region-wide plan that encompasses all districts and neighborhoods and that focuses and coordinates infrastructure investment. Entities that are responsible for coordinating various investments will likely have plans that they will be bringing to the table (eg a regional transportation plan; HUD comprehensive plans for housing investment; city or county general plans, water or air resources board plans, state energy efficiency plans). A first step will be to review the relevant plans and decide which aspects of them are useful as a baseline for the regional planning process. The consortia will need to decide how the key information from each existing plan can be overlain with the others to begin to understand regional conditions in a relational way. And it will need to decide what new information is needed.

 The overlay of sectoral dynamics (e.g. where transit arteries are; where job centers are; where housing density and affordability exist) with demographic dynamics (where are high poverty communities, communities of color, communities of affluence) forms the basis to envision the key things that need to happen to create a more sustainable, prosperous, and equitable region. The perspective of low income communities and communities of color is crucial in this process as those communities know keenly the lack of infrastructure they face; the perspective of social justice-focused advocacy groups is crucial as they know keenly the regional trends and disparities in arenas like air quality impacts or housing discrimination. Laying out a plan of how you move from consortium to community and back again is more art than science.

Many regions already have such plans, but few will have strong equity and sustainability aspects. Each applicant will need to articulate the art for their region, how it will achieve the equity and sustainability aspects, and ultimately who will be responsible for implementing the plan and how it should be implemented.

Topics to be addressed in this sub-section:

- **Existing Conditions and Trends**
  Form a baseline of the arenas you will be planning for and plans that already exist
- **Subject or Process Gaps**
  Identify subject areas of the partnership your region has not yet considered (e.g. energy efficiency)
- **Management and Role of Data Collection**
  How will data generated through various agencies and participatory processes be managed? Who will the data partners be? How will data be shared?
- **Redevelopment without Displacement**
  Consider preservation before demolition. What are the indirect and indirect costs of displacement?
- **Internal Engagement**
  What is the consortium's decision making structure? Will there be standing committees?
- **Steps Before Implementation**
  What are the barriers to working regionally? What process will address solutions?
- **Establish and Track Metrics**
  What planning benchmarks will mark the planning, evaluation, and finalizing of plan?

➔ **For Category Two applicants, make sure to include a thorough cost-benefit analysis for the specified investment project.** HUD has required that the analysis needs to cover, at the minimum, the following:

(1) **Cash benefits**
-reduction of energy consumption, reduction of waste disposal costs, etc.
(2) **Non-cash benefits**
-reduction of green house emissions, improved accessibility to affordable housing, etc.
(3) **Costs**
-capital costs and associated maintenance costs.

Making the Connection:
Examples of Inclusive and Equitable Plans

HUD Required RSPD Plan Elements	Resources
Adopt a Housing Plan	The following housing plans show the diversity of approaches:: Los Angeles, CA "Housing that Works" adopted in 2008 Chicago, IL "Accepting the Challenge" adopted in 2009 "Chicago Metropolis 2020" Adopted in 2007 New York, NY "The New Housing Marketplace" adopted in 2004 Washington, DC "Housing in the Nation's Capital, 2007". This takes a regional look at vulnerable population's housing needs.
Incorporate Equity and Fair Housing	Pratt, Sarah and Allen, Michael. *"Addressing Community Opposition to Affordable Housing Development: A Fair Market Housing Toolkit".* The Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, 2004. Leeuw, M., Whyte, D., et al. *"Residential Segregation and Housing Discrimination in the United States."* The Poverty & Race Research Action Council, 2008.
Advance Regional Transportation Planning	*The Transportation Prescription:* *Bold New Ideas for Healthy, Equitable Transportation Reform in America* A report by PolicyLink and Prevention Institute, and commissioned by the Convergence Partnership, this policy guide analyzes the intersection of transportation, health, and equity. This report provides key policy and program recommendations that can improve health outcomes in vulnerable communities, create economic opportunity, and enhance environmental quality. The Sacramento Region Blueprint Plan In 2008, the SACOG Board adopted the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035, using the Preferred Blueprint Scenario as the basis for the land use on which transportation investments will be made. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035 links land use and transportation planning, with $42 billion in transportation investments in the six-county Sacramento region over the next 28 years.

Advance Water Infrastructure Planning	Unincorporated Communities: The Community Equity Initiative Throughout the United States, millions of people live outside of central cities on pockets of unincorporated land. Predominantly African American and Latino, these communities range from remote but concentrated settlements of industrial or agricultural laborers to neighborhoods at the fringes of cities and towns that have been excluded from city borders. Residents of these areas struggle to attain the most basic features of a safe and healthy environment—services like clean water, sewage lines, storm drains, streetlights, and sidewalks. Dependent on rural county governance for urban needs, these communities are systematically underserved in the overall allocation of public resources. In order to ensure that these communities are able to benefit from and contribute to regional sustainability efforts, it is critical to ensure that their basic infrastructure needs are met. To do this, local and regional planning processes should pay specific attention to identifying strategies that facilitate the efficient delivery of infrastructure services including such things as annexation, system consolidation, and extension of services from existing infrastructure systems. For other tips in advancing water infrastructure; see the Los Angeles Water Management Plan
Plan for Equitable Economic Development	The Equitable Development Toolkit: 28 Tools Equitable development is an approach to creating healthy, vibrant, communities of opportunity. Equitable outcomes come about when smart, intentional strategies are put in place to ensure that low-income communities and communities of color participate in and benefit from decisions that shape their neighborhoods and regions. PolicyLink has developed an online toolkit of 28 tools to reverse patterns of segregation and disinvestment, prevent displacement, and promote equitable revitalization.
Conduct Scenario Planning Exercises	The Consensus Building Institute The Consensus Building Institute (CBI) improves the way leaders use negotiations to make organizational decisions, achieve agreements, and manage multiparty conflicts and planning efforts. The site provides links to effective scenario processes and techniques that improve group decision-making on complex public and organizational issues.
Conduct Comprehensive Climate Change Impact Assessments	*Minding The Climate Gap:* *What's at Stake if California's Climate Law isn't Done Right and Right Away* By Manuel Pastor, Rachel Morello-Frosch, James Sadd, and Justin Scoggins *Minding the Climate Gap: What's at Stake if California's Climate Law isn't Done Right and Right Away* details how incentivizing the reduction of greenhouse gases—which cause climate change—from facilities operating in the most polluted neighborhoods could generate major public health benefits. The study also details how revenues generated from charging polluters could be used to improve air quality and create jobs in the neighborhoods that suffer from the dirtiest air. **The Emerald Cities Collaborative** Developing a regional plan for investing in energy efficient retrofitting of buildings can be one of the highest yield sustainability returns—creating housing cost reductions through energy savings for lower income households; developing living wage jobs with career ladders or workers of color; creating green house gas reductions for climate change benefits. The Emerald Cities Collaborative can help regions plan energy efficiency into housing elements, long term regional investment strategies, workforce development plans and resources that guide successful implementation of an Energy Efficiency Element. See: http://www.emeraldcities.org/ EPA State & Local Climate and Energy Programhttp://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/ **Center on Wisconsin Strategy** A Short Guide to Setting up a City-Scale Retrofit Program Seizing the Opportunity (for Climate, Jobs, and Equity) in Building Energy Efficiency

Governance and management (15 points)

➔ **This is a critical section to get right in terms of how the consortium handles inclusion, diversity, and equity.** HUD is reserving 5 of these 15 points to award applications based on the soundness of the leadership structure.

Applicants should be prepared to offer a credible, detailed plan for expanding the partnership after a grant is awarded in ways that deepen the diversity at the table, with specific roles and forms of accountability established. How will power be shared among existing and future partners? This needs to be spelled out in the application and in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as it will be crucial for the meaningful involvement of grassroots groups, particularly those from low-income and people of color communities. How transparent, fair, and inclusive will the governance and management processes be? What kind of public feedback mechanisms will be put in place?

Aligning the Governance Structure to the Budget
Considerations for Inclusive Engagement

(1) **Build a social equity caucus or communities of color advisory committee with voting decision-making authority**.

(2) **Structure the budget to support a community engagement** that can help develop a local vision that feeds into the regional vision. Provide the language and other participation supports (e.g., transport and child care) to facilitate engagement.

(3) **Budget for community data collection including needs assessments and social equity mapping** to establish a baseline and set targets that include attention to poverty and racial concentration, social indicators, housing affordability, and mapping the location of opportunities for employment, quality schools, fresh food, parks and open space, health centers, and other amenities.

(4) **Provide educational tools and media strategies** to communicate the process and results of planning and keep regional residents apprised of the progress and convey social equity vision at each opportunity.

(5) **Identify facilitation that can navigate race, class, and culture dynamics in constructive, community-building ways.**

(6) **Be prepared to provide additional training and technical assistance.** Under-served communities will need to be able to advocate for their own needs and for policy changes. If strong advocacy groups do not yet exist in one or more of the under-served communities within the region, then local groups in these communities need capacity-building resources to build this advocacy skill.

(7) **Create a culture of openness and flexibility and a willingness to adjust plans based on the evaluations**.

Project implementation or completion schedule (5 points)

Fill out Factor Five application chart to align the appropriate milestones necessary to achieve the specific outcomes over the next 18 to 36 months that resolve the challenges identified in Factor Two. Once the chart is complete, align the benchmarks to the narrative required for this section. Meaningful community engagement takes time and can be more "messy" and cumbersome than less democratic, transparent, and open processes. So, create timelines accordingly!

Aligning the Numbers to the Priorities

Budget proposal (3 points)

The budget expenses should reflect the plans and activities in the narrative response to the factor ratings. Although the budget constitutes a small allotment of points, it is crucial that the budget provides the necessary financial support for key consortium staff and the involvement of social equity groups. The consortium should include social equity groups into "direct labor" expenses to ensure structural participation. Creating a grant budget to support the development of local areas to develop plans can foster community of color participation and help integrate local area plans with the greater regional plan.

Before beginning the required Budget Excel Sheet (HUD Form-424-CBW), note that 424-CBW is HUD's standard budget form for several grant programs. The form contains a few lines items that are not necessarily applicable to the SCRPG (e.g., construction costs) and do not have to be filled out. HUD Form-424-CBW accounts for the total project budget over the 18-36 month implementation period and does not require applicants to separate Year One budget projections from Year Two.

Tips to Consider before beginning the budget

(1) **Ensure that the threshold requirements are fulfilled.**
- The proposed amount of federal funds does not exceed the threshold for your funding category (For guidelines, please refer to pg 2 of this guide and pg 16 of the NOFA).
- 20 Percent Leverage Requirement is fulfilled (pg 21 of the NOFA)

(2) **Review the "Funding Restrictions" within the NOFA (pg 35).**

Addressing the Priorities

HUD's departmental priorities (5 points)

Applicants must demonstrate compliance with the HUD policy priorities applicable to the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program:

1. **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing**

2. **Expand Cross Cutting Policy Knowledge**

To receive points under the first priority, applicants must demonstrate how: a) the skills and technical expertise of partner organizations will increase; and b) knowledge will be shared among partners within the

consortium. To receive points under the second priority, applicants must work to expand the use of successful models to other communities through data-sharing agreements. This requires knowledge sharing, capacity building, data collection, and analysis.

For household level data, HUD has specified that the types of data-sharing agreements can be with a university or other policy research group. For parcel-related data, the agreement may be with a nonprofit or governmental agency. Applicants must indicate what data they and/or partner organizations will collect on outcomes for the defined target area and how they intend to disseminate policy lessons learned during the planning process. To demonstrate progress within this section, HUD has encouraged applicants to establish and provide anticipated outputs of the planning process (e.g., publications, research studies, etc).

Best Practices in Action

Collaborative Planning and Problem Solving
Environmental justice community-based organizations addressing inequities in planning, zoning, and community development offer other important lessons. The ReGenesis Project in Spartanburg, South Carolina is a national example of the EPA's collaborative problem-solving model. Another excellent case study is the work of the Low Country Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC) in Charleston, South Carolina which developed a community mitigation plan with the Port of Charleston. Both of these groups were awarded EPA's EJ Achievement Award.

► To read about participatory action-based research and planning in the area of environmental justice, with LAMC and other groups, see: http://ifs.sc.edu/EJ.asp.

A Few Tips on Project Evaluation

(1) **Describe how the region plans to deal with residential and small business displacement that could result from infrastructure investments that will increase land costs and property values.** If the grantee identifies demolition or the conversion of any low- or moderate-income dwelling units as a viable strategy for redevelopment, the grantee must:

- Address why it has determined to demolish rather than to preserve those properties;
- Identify the number of those properties that are reasonably expected to be demolished or converted; and
- Address relocation assistance to residential and nonresidential displacements (page 46).

(2) **Describe methods of evaluation**

- Transparent reporting of data can be an **instrument of accountability** and feedback, capable of motivating, informing, and reinforcing positive change.
- **Evaluate throughout the life cycle of the project** – not just at the beginning and end. Data collection and reporting become interventions in and of themselves. Realize that evaluation itself is able to create change.
- Evaluations must be closely linked to planning goals and theories.

- **Focusing on process** allows an evaluation to inform decisions about ongoing strategy and approach.

- Evaluations **need to prioritize real-time learning and the community's capacity** to understand and use data from the evaluations*.*

Best Practices in Action

Development without Displacement
In the **San Francisco Bay Area**, the FOCUS program unites the efforts of the four regional agencies responsible for land use planning, transportation, air quality, and water to encourage future growth in existing communities and near transit. In 2009, FOCUS implemented a [Development Without Displacement Program](#) with environmental justice funding from the state DOT to help community groups and local governments develop strategies to ensure TOD does not lead to displacement of lower-income residents. The agencies' efforts are complemented by a regional advocacy and organizing effort, the Great Communities Collaborative, which seeks to ensure that that by 2030 all people in the Bay Area can live in complete communities, affordable across all incomes, and with nearby access to quality transit. This year, the collaborative partnered with the regional transportation agency to develop a program to help reach that goal: a $40 million revolving loan fund to support land acquisition for 1,100 to 3,800 new affordable homes located near rail or bus stops.

► For additional resources, *Mapping Susceptibility to Gentrification: The Early Warning Toolkit***, Karen Chapple. Center for Community Innovation,** [click here](#)**.**

RATING FACTOR #4: LEVERAGING RESOURCES (5 points)
Understanding the 20 Percent Match

To deliver on a commitment to equity, partners should seek matching funds that will support equity focused activities, and enable the consortium to meet or exceed the minimum 20 percent leverage requirement. Note: consortia win points if they exceed the leverage threshold. Donated staff time, for example, can count as an in-kind contribution. Community based partners can be valuable recruiters of philanthropic contributions to the budget.

Factor 4 – Leveraging Resources				
Name and contact information of the organization or entity that will partner with applicant	Work To Be Accomplished In Support of the Program	Value of In-Kind or Cash Match Contribution*	Additional Leveraged Funds Contribution	Total of Match and Leveraged Contributions
Type of Organization Community Foundation	Funding community participation in planning	$1 million		$1,000,000
Type of Organization Community College	Planning workforce development strategies	In-kind key personnel to convene workforce consortium, analyze jobs, skill needs, training curriculum—valued at $50,000/yr X 2		$100,000
Community Cultural Center	Community Engagement	$8,000 for in-kind donation for community meeting space.		$8,000

Some local, regional, and national foundations are interested in funding nonprofits to participate in regional planning exercises. Consortium partners should work to secure an MOU with interested funders to submit as part of the application process. This would strengthen the application.

➜ **Partners may receive some of the grant funds to do critical pieces of the planning and consortium management work.** These arrangements should be noted in this section of the Ratings Form and spelled out in the mandatory partnership agreements/MOUs that must be submitted. **If community-based organizations can provide meeting space, technical assistance, or other services (e.g., organizing, meeting facilitation, conducting participatory research, interpretation/translation, coordinating communication, or outreach, those contributions should be reflected in the budgeting.** These skills will strengthen the planning process and should be noted as hard costs or real in-kind contributions in the budget.

➜ **Applicants that obtain leveraged resources from other HUD programs,** Sustainability Partnership agencies, and other federal agencies will receive a greater rating (up to 2 points). See point distribution in chart below.

➜ **Applicants will not receive full points under this rating factor if they do not submit evidence of a firm commitment and the appropriate use of leveraged resources under the grant program (NOFA, pg 56)**

Documented Leveraged Resources and Other Contributions of the Requested HUD Amount	Points Awarded	Points Awarded (with federal leverage)
20 percent	0 Points	0 Points
>20 - ≤35 percent	1 Point	3 Points
>35- ≤50percent	2 Points	4 Points
>50 percent	3 Points	5 Points

Source: Sustainable Communities Regional Grant Program NOFA PG 56

Rating Factor #5: ACHIEVING RESULTS & PROGRAM EVALUATION (20 points)

►For an excellent overview of *Regional Equity and the Quest for Full Inclusion:*
http://www.policylink.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=lkIXLbMNJrE&b=5136581&ct=6997399

►For a helpful analysis of Infrastructure Equity issues: http://www.policylink.org/atf/cf/%7B97c6d565-bb43-406d-a6d5-eca3bbf35af0%7D/SAFETYGROWTHEQUITY-INFRAPOLICIES_FINAL.PDF

Factor #5 – Achieving Results and Program Evaluation
HUD examples in Black, PolicyLink examples in blue

Regional planning issue to be addressed	Long-term outcome desired	Livability Principle(s) addressed	HUD goals addressed	Applicable Activity in the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development	Anticipated 6-month progress	Measure of progress	Anticipated 12-month progress	Measure of progress	Anticipated 24-month progress	Measure of progress
Disconnection between low- and moderate-income workforce to employment options (sample)	a. Increased proportion of low- and very-low income households within to transit commute of major employment centers (sample)	Providing More Transportation Choices; Increasing Economic Competitiveness	**Strengthen Communities.** (2) Enhance sustainability of communities by expanding economic opportunities.	Workforce Transportation 2020 plan that cements agreements between major employers and regional transit agency (sample)	Identify potential long term employers willing to participate in program; secure participation of transit agency (sample)	Letters of commitment from participating agencies	Convene working group that has 4-month charge to develop agreements to incorporate into the RPSD (sample)	Summaries of meetings; strategic plan outline	Draft plan submitted to leadership Team for review and incorporation into the RPSD – review process commenced (sample)	Draft plan, ratification by RPSD
Disparity in workforce and public contracting participation by people of color *and* Energy sustainability in building sector *and* High Housing Cost Burdens	b. Reduced social and economic disparities for the low-income and communities of color within the target region.	Enhance Economic Competitiveness, Promote affordable Housing, Coordinate Policies and leverage investment	(1)Job Creation *and* (2)Sustainability *and* (4)Capacity Building and Knowledge (5)	Workforce Energy Efficiency 2020 plan that prioritizes residential, commercial, and public building retrofits, aligns workforce and contracting pipelines for good jobs and minority firm inclusion, and reduces housing costs while reducing energy consumption and carbon	Assemble Green Energy consortia of community/technical colleges, building trades unions, construction firm associations from people of color communities…….	Structure 2 planning committees: one to review Housing Element and develop regional retrofit priorities; one to articulate workforce capacity needs, skill development requirements, current training capacity, and future need	Report committee findings to community stakeholder and regional planning consortium Solicit feedback and evaluation on priorities through scenario planning	Develop workforce development blueprint based on stakeholder input Develop energy efficiency housing element that targets retrofits over next decade	Align budgets to invest in retrofits in staged fashion over next decade Develop workplan for workforce development restructuring Present to consortium and community stakeholders	Draft plan, ratification by RPSD

			emissions						
	c. Decrease in per capita VMT and transportation-related emissions for the region.								
	d. Decrease in combined housing and transportation costs per household.								
	e. Increased participation and decision-making in developing and implementing a long range vision for the region by populations traditionally marginalized in								
	f. Increased proportion of low- and very-low income households within to transit commute or major employment centers.								

Further resources for Rating Factor #5 will be posted to this document the week of Aug 2, 2010.

Equity questions on your regional planning application? E-mail us at <u>sci@policylink.org</u> and we'll try to respond.