

Building Economic Resilience:

Integrated Planning and Investment Grants

The Challenge

59%	The percentage of income that working families spend on housing and transportation costs
1 in 4	The proportion of low and middle-skill jobs accessible via transit (within a 90 minute commute)
\$110 billion	The potential savings on road costs by utilizing existing infrastructure and locating housing and jobs closer together
22.3 million	The number of people in American regions that live in high poverty neighborhoods

The Opportunity

Healthy, economically strong regions—in which all individuals and families can access affordable housing, quality schools, employment centers, and other basic services—are the foundation of a prosperous America. Yet, regional development patterns have increasingly driven infrastructure investments and jobs outward, leaving too many Americans disconnected from jobs. However, equitable regional development can provide access to opportunity for people with the least resources—enabling regions to compete and grow economically.

In 2009, the president established a formal interagency partnership between the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency to foster collaboration between transportation agencies, local governments, community leadership, philanthropy, and the private sector to spur

reinvestment in economically-stressed communities. This collaboration has resulted in new partnerships at the local level that are shaping inclusive regional futures, reducing regulatory barriers, more effectively leveraging federal dollars, and catalyzing revitalization in neighborhoods that need it most. In 2013, this partnership is expanding to formally include the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Energy, the Economic Development Administration, the Small Business Administration, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Every family deserves to live in a community of opportunity.

Key Components of the Integrated Planning and Investments Grants

Administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Integrated Planning and Investment Grants program is intended to better align regional investments across various sectors to promote greater access to opportunity and affordability. Responding to lessons learned from HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative, HUD is retooling these regional planning grants to support a stronger focus on regional economic development within their proposed new Office of Economic Resilience. Building off of the successful Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grants, competitive grants are awarded for comprehensive regional and local planning with minimal restrictions so local innovation can succeed.

Key features of the program include:

- **Innovative partnerships—between local and regional governments, the private sector, and civic leadership—for directing regional investments.** In the first two years of the Sustainable Communities Initiative (FY 2010 and FY 2011), 143 regions and communities received planning or implementation grants between \$200,000 and \$5 million to develop plans that will guide the allocation and location of transportation, housing and infrastructure investments. The Integrated Planning and Investment grants will continue to seed these partnerships with a strong focus on players critical to economic development and resilience.
- **Expansive community engagement to improve economic and health outcomes.** Embedded throughout the governance and implementation of the grant activities is strong engagement and leadership of communities that face economic hardship and poor health outcomes, ensuring that the regional plans improve quality of life.
- **Saving public dollars through smarter investments.** In planning for future investments, grantees are strategically co-locating future transportation, affordable housing, water infrastructure, and other public services saving taxpayer dollars while strengthening workforce engagement and regional growth and competitiveness.
- **Building on economic strengths of a region.** By linking workforce to job centers through transit investments; and aligning private, public, and philanthropic investments in workforce and economic development—these integrated planning and investment grants will bring new consensus and direction to future economic prosperity.

The Federal Landscape for 2014

Funding History. In 2010, Congress appropriated \$150 million for 87 regional planning and community challenge grants and for eight technical assistance and capacity building grants. In 2011, Congress appropriated \$95 million for 56 regional planning and community planning grants. In 2012, the program was zeroed out in the budget reconciliation process and the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities was funded at \$2.9M through the FY12 Continuing Resolution, which held through the FY13 Continuing Resolution. In both years of the competitive program, there was substantially more demand for the program than availability of funding: in FY 2011, there were over \$380 million requests for the regional planning program, with only \$68 million of funds granted; in FY 2010, there were \$450 million in requests for the regional planning program, with only \$98 million granted to regions.

FY 2014 Budget Recommendation. Support HUD funding for Integrated Planning and Investments Grants at \$75 million within the new Office of Economic Resilience (with additional support for the technical assistance and capacity building program).

About the 2010 and 2011 Sustainable Communities Grantees

Sustainable Communities grantees include urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities of all sizes.

Developing Transit-Oriented Regions. Grantees from the Seattle/Tacoma region, the Minneapolis/St. Paul region, St. Louis, Denver, and Charlotte are working to develop transit-oriented regions that focus on growing their economies through greater connectivity between workers and jobs while ensuring that communities of color benefit from investments and construction employment.

Building Strong Economies. Grantees in Kansas City, Cleveland, Detroit, and the San Francisco Bay Area are working to connect workers to economic opportunity by strengthening middle skill job sectors, investing in abandoned infrastructure in their urban cores, and planning for strategic investments that leverage urban, suburban, and rural interests.

Leveraging Diverse Investments. All grantees are using their funds to leverage diverse federal investments. For example, in New Orleans, families living in the Claiborne Corridor will be able to benefit from greater coordinated investments in improved storm water infrastructure, revitalized public housing, new street car connections, and the potential removal of an interstate dividing the community.

For more information, contact:

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