



HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) on the FY2010 appropriated \$100 million regional integrated planning grants, of which \$2 million will be set aside for capacity support grants to be issued separately. This signifies the next step in the federal interagency Sustainable Communities Partnership (Partnership) between HUD, U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the below information synthesizes the funding opportunity. Click [HERE](#) to access the NOFA and related information.

HUD CONTACT

Zuleika K. Morales-Romero
Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Tel: 202.402.7683
Email: Zuleika.K.Morales@hud.gov

APPLICATION PERIOD

The application period ends on Monday, August 23.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This grant program will support **metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts** that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation and infrastructure investments that empower 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
4. Public health and environmental impact

The grant program places **priority on partnerships**, particularly those that are nontraditional, to translate the six Livability Principles into strategies.

Program goals include:

- Fostering the development of sustainable communities that are consistent with the Livability Principles
- Supporting metropolitan areas and multijurisdictional partnerships that commit to adopt integrated plans, strategies and management tools
- Facilitating strong alliances of residents and regional interest groups to maintain a long-term vision and support sustainable development practices
- Building greater transparency and accountability within planning and implementation
- Expediting implementation of Livability Principles through local zoning and land use law changes that remove sustainability barriers
- Aligning local, state and tribal capital improvement programs with the Livability Principles
- Assisting all regions towards sustainability and livability, and preparing for implementation and on-the-ground results

Partnership's Six Livability Principles

1. Provide more transportation choices
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing
3. Enhance economic competitiveness
4. Support existing communities
5. Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment
6. Value Communities and neighborhoods

Program outcomes will be regional plans that produce the following:

- Shared elements in regional transportation, housing, water and air quality plans tied to local land use and capital investment plans
- Aligned federal planning and investment resources that mirror local and regional strategies
- Increased participation and decision-making in creating and implementing long-range visions by populations traditionally marginalized in the planning process
- Reduced social and economic disparities for low-income and communities of color
- Decrease in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and transportation-related emissions
- Decrease in combined housing and transportation costs/household
- Increase in share of residential and commercial construction on underutilized infill development to encourage revitalization, while minimizing displacement in neighborhoods for disadvantaged persons
- Increase in low and very low-income housing near transit and employment centers



GENERAL INFORMATION cont.

HUD many select applicants for **Preferred Sustainability Status**, which indicates a great level of integration and advancement, and allows for increased benefits. If this status is given to an applicant without a grant of funding, the applicant will be eligible for next year’s competition.

PROGRAM FUNDING

Approximately \$98 million will be made available through this NOFA in the form of **Cooperative Agreements**, with at least \$25 million awarded to regions with a population of less than 500,000. Awards will be based on regional population and geographic boundaries and the performance period will not exceed 36 months.

The program will support **two funding categories**:

- (1) Creation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development (RPSD)
- (2) Detailed Execution Plans and Programs. Awards will be based on regional population and geographic boundaries

The **population categories** for applicants are (*applicant must identify as one category*):

Large Metropolitan Regions = 500,000 population or more

Medium-Sized Regions = 200,000 to 499,999 population

Small-Sized Regions, Rural Communities, and Small Town Areas = 200,000 population or less

FUNDING CATEGORIES

Applicants may select only ONE category when applying, and determine which population category to specify:

(1) Creation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development

- Creation of new plans or updating existing plans
- Plans must address integrated housing, economic development, transportation, energy, water and environmental quality
- Support stakeholder driven visioning and scenario planning exercises
- Work with HUD to determine locally appropriate performance metrics consistent with the performance metrics of the Partnership and Livability Principles

(2) Detailed Execution Plans and Programs

- Support fine-tuning of existing regional plans
- Support preparation of detailed execution plans for an adopted RPSD
- Support pre-development planning activities for a catalytic project(s) that are within the plan
- Applicants must outline implementation steps and ongoing governance assignments

POPULATION CATEGORIES

For the purposes of the NOFA, a region is categorized as the following:

1. Geographic area (can be larger) that includes a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), or the jurisdictions of two or more adjacent MPOs; Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or Micropolitan Statistical Area; Metropolitan Division if the region is within a Combined Statistical Area with a population exceeding 7 million
2. Non-defined area that is outside of the MSA or Metropolitan Division, and can establish self-designated boundaries of the region.

Type of Applicant	Population Range	Appropriate Geographic Area	Grant Amount
Large Metropolitan Regions	500,000+	MSA, Metropolitan Division, or one or more MPOs	Minimum \$500,000 Maximum \$5 million
Medium Sized Regions	200,000 to 499,999	MSA, Micropolitan Statistical Area, or one or more MPOs	Minimum \$200,000 Maximum \$2 million
Small Sized Regions, Rural Communities and Small Towns	200,000 or less	Micropolitan Statistical Area, one or more MPOs, self-designated boundaries	Minimum \$100,000 Maximum \$1 million



COST SHARING/MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Matching funds are not required. However, applicants must provide 20% of the requested funding amount in leveraged resources in the form of cash and/or verified in-kind contributions or a combination of these sources. Successful applicants must have the required amount of leveraged resources (20%) at the time of signing the cooperative agreement. Applicants will receive credit for leveraging resources in excess of the 20%. In-kind contributions may be in the form of staff time, donated materials, or services.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are multijurisdictional and multisector partnership consisting of a consortium of government entities and non-profit partners.

1. Consortium that includes the jurisdictions of MPO(s), a MSA, a Micropolitan Statistical Area, or Metropolitan Division, as well as:
 - Traditional principal city (cities) within the boundaries of the region within MSA
 - City, county, or any other unit of general local government with the largest population
 - Additional cities, counties or units of general local government and Indian Tribes to ensure no less than 50% of the population residents are represented
 - MPO or regional planning organization (if multiple MPOs, all MPOs that have jurisdiction within the region)
 - Non-profit organization, foundation or education institution to engage a diverse population
2. Consortium for non-defined area must include:
 - Cities, counties or units of general local government and Indian Tribes representing at least 50% of the population residents
 - Existing Rural Planning Organization or Council of Government
 - Non-profit organization, foundation or education institution to engage a diverse population

Additional consortium partners can also include state government, Council of Governments, rural planning organization, one or more local or regional transportation agencies, special districts, unified school districts, one or more Indian Tribes, multi-tribal organization, additional non-profit organizations, foundations, educational institutions, or any public authorities, districts, business leadership groups, or regional governmental organizations. Private and for-profit entities may participate.

While working through a consortium effort, there must be a **lead applicant** identified which is a part of the consortium. The lead applicant must submit the application, execute the cooperative agreement and assume fiscal responsibility if selected. A partnership agreement, MOU or proof of commitment of the consortium must be submitted with the application. If selected for granting, a formal consortium agreement, including member responsibilities and a timeline, must be executed no later than 120 days after start date. A lead applicant may only be the lead for ONE application.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Eligible activities include tasks necessary to develop a comprehensive Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD), to align investments with this plan, to improve the management capability to implement the plan, and to develop relevant policy, planning, and evaluation capacity.

Activities include, but are not limited to:

1. Establish coordinated intergovernmental planning and secure agreements among partners.
2. Develop a comprehensive Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD), at a minimum consisting of:
 - Adopt a housing plan
 - Incorporate equity and fair housing analysis into regional planning
 - Advance regional transportation planning to increase modal choice, needed investments, and environmental improvements
 - Advance water infrastructure planning for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater
 - Perform environmental planning
 - Plan for economic development activities
 - Conduct scenario planning to project economic growth possibilities
 - Conduct comprehensive climate change impact assessments to guide regional planning and implementation strategies
3. Identify immediate and long-term policies
4. Align infrastructure investment to ensure equitable land use planning consistent with the RPSD



NARC

Building Regional Communities



ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES cont.

5. Ensure public decision-making and meaningful resident participation throughout visioning, development and implementation of RPSD, including public hearings, meetings, websites, forums, charrettes, etc.
6. Identify measures to track the progress toward creating sustainable communities through statistical and qualitative analysis of specific indicators
7. Strengthen management and decision-making capacities
8. Engage in site-specific planning and design of capital projects or programs to be included in the RPSD and of regional significance as associated with implementing the RPSD – ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR CATEGORY 2 APPLICANTS
9. Preparation of administrative and regulatory measures
10. Studies and research on the legal authorities
11. Technical planning studies

APPLICATION & SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must do the following for applying:

1. Select only ONE applicant population category and funding category
2. Must NOT submit above maximum grant amount per population category
3. Provide a Resolution of Outstanding Civil Rights Matters
4. Provide a Code of Conduct that describe ways to adhere to the code
5. Have established financial management system that meets federal standards
6. Comply with applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements

Submission requirements:

Applicants should submit applications on www.grants.gov, and follow system requirements, which includes required forms and instructions.

Application requirements:

1. Narrative/Rating Factors Response
 - Maximum of 25 pages, 8.5"X11" paper with 12 point font with no less than ¾" margins on all sides
 - Any materials to be included in formal review should be incorporated into this 25 page limit
 - Should discuss what is included in the appendices
 - Must Include:
 - Capacity of Applicant and Relevant Organizational Experience and Factor 1 Form
 - Needs/Extent of the Problem and Factor 2 Form
 - Leveraging and Matching Resources and Factor 4 Form
 - Other Materials such as Organizational Chart, bios or resumes for key personnel and proof of partnership
2. Abstract
 - Summary of objectives and expected results
 - Maximum of 2 pages
3. Application checklist (voluntary)
 - Indicating the required items for complete submission
 - Forms required:
 - SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
 - SF-424 Supplemental Survey on Equal Opportunity for Applicants
 - HUD-424-CBW HUD Detailed Budget Worksheet and Budget Justification Narrative
 - HUD-2880 Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report
 - SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
 - HUD-96011 Third Party Documentation Facsimile Transmittal
4. Appendices
 - Photos, maps and charts that describe the local condition
 - Maximum of 15 pages



APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

The following highlight the rating criteria that HUD will use in evaluating applications. Much of what HUD details out in this part of the NOFA is helpful in pulling together required parts of the application. Review pages 37 through 61 in the NOFA for more information.

Rating Factors	Points
Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational Capacity and Qualifications (7 points) • Capacity and Qualification of Key Personnel (3 point) 	10 Total
Need/Extent of the Problem	10 Total
Soundness of Approach - Category 1 and 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Description of Proposed Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (10 points) • Process to Develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (17 points) • Governance and Management (15 points) • Project Implementation Schedule (5 points) • Applications Budget Proposal (3 points) • HUD's Departmental Policy Priorities (5 points) 	55 Total
Matching and Leveraging Resources	5 Total
Achieving Results and Program Evaluation	20 Total
Economic Distress Bonus Points	2 Total
TOTAL	102

NARC Contact:
Shannon Menard
Policy Manager
202.986.1032, x217 (t)
shannon@narc.org

ICLEI Contact:
Art von Lehe
Policy Officer
202.629.3591 (t)
art.vonlehe@iclei.org