

Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Partnership in Action September 2011



On June 16, 2011, the Partnership for Sustainable Communities celebrated its second anniversary, commemorating two years of working to help communities create healthy places, vibrant neighborhoods, and cohesive regions. Together, HUD, DOT, and EPA have made great strides in linking their resources, policies, and efforts to work with American cities, suburbs, small towns, and rural areas to develop affordable housing choices, efficient and accessible transportation systems, and a clean environment. Below are two recent examples of how the Partnership has been making federal resources work better for communities.

Hartford, Connecticut

Through the Greening America's Capitals program, which helps state capitals develop an implementable vision of distinctive, environmentally friendly neighborhoods, EPA, HUD, and DOT worked together to help Hartford re-imagine a central portion of its downtown area, Capitol Avenue. Partnership staff and a team of designers worked with the city and stakeholders to tailor design options to make walking easier and more pleasant; foster a stronger sense of place; better manage stormwater; and make connections between neighborhoods, cultural districts, downtown, and future transit stops. Hartford could use these designs to revitalize Capitol Avenue by making better use of its cultural and civic assets and by adding rain gardens and other green infrastructure features that beautify the street. Visit the Greening America's Capitals web page to see the design options for Hartford and the four other recently completed projects:
<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/greencapitals.htm>

Detroit, Michigan

The Partnership has joined forces with the White House Domestic Policy Council and nine other federal agencies to launch Strong Cities, Strong Communities. This initiative is designed to strengthen neighborhoods, towns, cities, and regions around the country by enhancing local government capacity and cutting through federal red tape. Detroit, one of six pilot cities, will receive technical and planning assistance to help city government build partnerships with the business and nonprofit communities. As Secretary Donovan announced on July 11, a "Community Solutions Team" will be deployed to Detroit to work full-time with city leaders for up to two years. This project will improve coordination on workforce and economic development issues and will leverage DOT's investments in high-speed rail and the Woodward Avenue light-rail project to spur economic revitalization in the downtown corridor. See:
<http://blog.hud.gov/2011/07/11/strengthening-our-cities-communities/>

To celebrate the Partnership's second anniversary, Administrator Jackson and Secretaries LaHood and Donovan posted to the White House blog, marking two trailblazing years of unprecedented federal partnership dedicated to "building communities where housing, public transportation, jobs, and services are conveniently connected, where businesses thrive, and where the air, water and land are clean." Featured were Ranson, West Virginia, and Boston, Massachusetts, two communities that have combined grants, programs, and assistance from all three Partnership agencies to revitalize neighborhoods and reposition them for a more economically and environmentally sustainable future. Read the blog post:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/06/16/partnership-sustainable-communities-marks-two-trailblazing-years>.

Please visit the Partnership's website, www.sustainablecommunities.gov, to find information on grants and resources and to learn more about the sustainable communities work in your area.

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Sustainable Communities
an interagency partnership HUD • DOT • EPA





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After celebrating two years of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, HUD, DOT, and EPA are proud to continue working together to offer innovative grant and assistance programs to the nation's communities. The following assistance opportunities are now, or soon will be, open for applications. More information on each opportunity is available on the grants page of the Partnership website, www.sustainablecommunities.gov/grants.html.

DOT TIGER Grants: DOT's TIGER program funds capital construction and planning for surface transportation projects around the country. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on infrastructure investment. **Applications due Oct. 3, 2011.**

EPA Technical Assistance: Two EPA technical assistance programs will soon be accepting letters of interest. The **Smart Growth Implementation Assistance** program provides in-depth assistance on complex or cutting-edge issues. The **Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities** program provides quick, targeted assistance using proven tools. Both programs help communities with a variety of development-related challenges. **Application period for both programs is Sept. 28 to Oct. 28, 2011.**

EPA Brownfields Grants

- **Area-Wide Planning Grants:** Planning assistance to communities, many in underserved and economically disadvantaged areas, to develop area-wide plans for the reuse of brownfields properties. **Application period opens Feb. 2012.**
- **Multipurpose Grants:** Flexible funding to conduct assessment and cleanup activities at a specific site. **Application period opens Oct./Nov. 2011.**
- **Environmental Workforce Job Training Grants:** Grants to nonprofit organizations to recruit, train, and employ predominately low-income and minority, unemployed and under-employed residents from solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities. **Application period opens Nov./Dec. 2011.**
- **Assessment Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grants:** Addresses sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. **Application period opens Sept./Oct. 2011.**

HUD Preferred Sustainability Status

HUD will award two bonus points to any grant applicant working with communities that have received Preferred Sustainability Status. Applicants who show that they, in consultation with a Preferred Sustainability Status Community, further the purpose of the Regional Planning or Challenge Grant Program, or whose activities and services directly reflect the Partnership's Livability Principles, can receive bonus points during review of their application. Applicants must also maintain an ongoing relationship with a HUD Preferred Sustainability Status Community. For more information, please visit:

www.hud.gov/sustainability

The following grant and financing opportunities recently closed. Check the Partnership website to learn about the recipients.

HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grants: HUD will announce awards for \$100 million in Sustainable Communities Regional Planning and Community Challenge Planning Grants in fall 2011. These grants assist regions and communities in creating and implementing locally driven plans that integrate affordable housing, economic development, land use, and transportation.

DOT Transit Climate Change Adaptation Assessment Pilots: This program funds transit agencies or partnerships with transit agencies to assess the vulnerability of agency assets and services to climate-related hazards such as heat waves and flooding. Recipients will be announced by winter, 2011.

HUD Rural Innovation Fund Grants: In August, HUD awarded more than \$28 million to 46 rural and tribal communities throughout the nation to address either housing or economic development needs or both.

HUD CHOICE Neighborhood Planning Grants: In August, HUD announced five cities that will receive a combined \$122 million to redevelop distressed housing and bring comprehensive neighborhood revitalization to blighted areas.

More information and updates on the Partnership: <http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov>

