

# APPENDIX A

## EPA'S SMART GROWTH IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE (SGIA) PROGRAM

Communities around the country want to foster economic growth, protect environmental resources, and plan for development. In many cases they need additional tools, resources or information to achieve these goals. In response to this need, the Environmental Protection Agency's Development, Community, and Environment Division (DCED) launched the Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program in 2005 to provide technical assistance through contractor services to selected communities. EPA assembles teams of specialized consultants, bringing together expertise that meets a particular community's needs. While working with community participants to understand their aspirations for development, the teams bring experience from working in other parts of the country to provide best practices for consideration by the assisted community. The goal of the program is to help participating communities attain their goals, while also producing a resource (such as a report or a set of guidelines) that can be useful to a broad range of communities facing similar challenges.

The Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program is designed to help communities achieve growth that supports economic, community, and environmental goals. People in communities around the country are frustrated by development that gives them no choice about driving long distances between where they work, live and shop; that requires costly public expenditures to extend sewers, roads and public services to support new development; that uses up natural areas and farmland for development while land and buildings lie empty in already developed areas; and that makes it difficult for working people to rent or buy a home because of development that focuses only on one or two costly housing types. Smart growth strategies create new neighborhoods and maintain existing ones that are attractive, convenient, safe, and healthy. They foster design that encourages social, civic, and physical activity. They protect the environment while stimulating economic growth. Most of all, they create more choices for residents, workers, visitors, children, families, single people, and older adults—choices in where to live, how to get around, and how to interact with the people around them. When communities undertake this kind of planning, they preserve the best of their past while creating a bright future for generations to come.

More information about the program, including information on how to apply and links to reports from past SGIA recipients, can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm>.