

Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Priority Areas of Focus for 2011



For 2011, the four areas of focus described below will shape how the US Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Housing and Urban Development move forward in implementing the goals of the Partnership and continuing to build on the work begun in 2009 and 2010.

The Partnership for Sustainable Communities' Priority Areas of Focus for 2011:

Emphasize the connection between sustainable communities and job creation, economic growth, and redevelopment. Through better access to transportation, housing, and a better environment, communities begin to attract new jobs and opportunities for investment. The Partnership will emphasize economic growth both by working with communities currently receiving assistance through Sustainable Communities programs and by developing resources and case studies to reach additional communities.

Continue to cultivate and support communities adopting and implementing livability principles. The Partnership will help current grantees succeed by providing technical assistance and tools, building capacity in federal field offices, and giving grantees better access to local networks and resources. This year's experience will also inform future competitions, allowing future grantees to be better served. Additionally, work will continue to inform states and communities of the livability principles and resources available.

Provide communities with faster, more streamlined access to Partnership programs. Although the Partnership has taken many vital initial steps to providing communities with access to new and existing federal funds, further work needs to be done to simplify the process in which grantees receive funding, as well as how communities plan. By identifying and removing barriers legislatively, administratively, and in the federal planning process, the Partnership will help to streamline how the federal government spends time and money, giving Americans a better, more efficient government.

Leverage new partners to make Federal programs work better for communities. By bringing additional partners to the table – from foundations to local organizations - communities will be provided with access to more resources and expertise. The Partnership will also work to expand our relationship with other federal agencies and better coordinate with states and local governments to ensure that Partnership spending and planning has the largest impact possible. Additionally, the Partnership will take advantage of legislative opportunities to make federal programs work better for communities.

"We're working to change the way government works, and that means investing tax dollars wisely and well. We want to make sure that when we're building infrastructure, we're considering how housing, transportation, and the environment all impact each other. These grants are designed to get our biggest bang for our tax dollar buck."

-- President Barack Obama, October 21, 2010

More information and updates on each agency's efforts:

<http://www.dot.gov/livability>

<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth>

<http://www.hud.gov/sustainability>

