



HUD NEWS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Shaun Donovan, Secretary
Office of Public Affairs, New York Regional Office, New York, N.Y. 10278

HUD No. 10-68

Alan Gelfand

(973) 776-7205

<http://www.hud.gov/news/index.cfm>

FOR RELEASE

Friday

October 15, 2010

HUD AWARDS \$3.5 MILLION TO PROMOTE SMARTER AND SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA

Part of Obama Administration's Partnership for Sustainable Communities; Nearly \$100 Million Awarded Nationwide

NEW YORK – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan just announced that a consortium of cities, counties and regional planning organizations in the New York Metropolitan Area has been awarded \$3.5 million to integrate housing, economic development, transportation and environmental planning. Under the coordination of the Regional Plan Association, Inc., the Consortium will develop livable communities and growth centers around existing and planned transit to enhance affordable housing efforts, reduce congestion, improve the environment and continue to expand economic opportunities. A central goal is to link strategies, on a metropolitan scale, to develop mixed-income housing, employment and infrastructure in locations connected by the region's commuter rail networks.

For the first time ever, HUD is awarding nearly \$100 million in new grants to support more livable and sustainable communities across the country. A total of 45 regional areas will receive funding through a new initiative intended to build economic competitiveness by connecting housing with good jobs, quality schools and transportation.

HUD's new [*Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program*](#) will support State, local, and tribal governments, as well as metropolitan planning organizations, in the development and execution of regional plans that integrate affordable housing with neighboring retail and business development. Many of the grants will leverage existing infrastructure and all reward local collaboration and innovation.

"I look forward to working with our local partners to advance smart growth in the New York Metro-area", said HUD Regional Administrator Adolfo Carrión. "The President's vision of a bottom-up model for federal investment is exactly what local leaders shared with my team when I did the listening tour with the White House Office of Urban Affairs. The President, the HUD Secretary and our agency, as well as our federal elected representatives will have a locally-created regional blueprint for investing federal resources that will advance economic competitiveness, environmental responsibility and quality communities. Congratulations to the local partners in our region...let's get to work right away."

-more-

“Regions that embrace sustainable communities will have a built-in competitive edge in attracting jobs and private investment,” said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. “Planning our communities smarter means parents will spend less time driving and more time with their children; more families will live in safe, stable communities near good schools and jobs; and more businesses will have access to the capital and talent they need to grow and prosper. In awarding these grants we were committed to using insight and innovation from our stakeholders and local partners to develop a ‘bottom-up’ approach to changing federal policy as opposed to ‘top-down.’ Rather than sticking to the old Washington playbook of dictating how communities can invest their grants, HUD’s application process encouraged creative, locally focused thinking.”

“This grant will build a clean energy economy, foster local innovation, expand affordable housing, and do wonders for New York commuters and residents,” said Senator Charles Schumer of New York.

“The New York-Connecticut Metropolitan Sustainable Communities Consortium represents the type of leadership and forward-thinking that is so desperately needed to overcome the complex challenges that face our urban communities,” said Congressman Jim Himes of Connecticut. “Through collaboration and an integrated approach to development, the Consortium will help our communities provide additional transportation options and affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve the region’s environmental sustainability. I am very proud of the work the Consortium has already done, and look forward to seeing their projects become a reality.”

"HUD's commitment to collaborative regional planning has already had an impact by bringing together cities, counties and regional planning organizations from across the metropolitan area in this unique planning collaboration," said Robert D. Yaro, President, Regional Plan Association. "We look forward to working with the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities to develop sustainable economic development plans that will benefit the entire metropolitan region."

These grants are part of the Obama Administration’s Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which brings EPA, HUD, USDA and DOT together to ensure that the agencies’ policies, programs, and funding consider affordable housing, transportation, and environmental protection together. This interagency collaboration gets better results for communities and uses taxpayer money more efficiently. Coordinating federal investments in infrastructure, facilities, and services meets multiple economic, environmental, and community objectives with each dollar spent. The Partnership is helping communities across the country to create more housing choices, make transportation more efficient and reliable, reinforce existing investments, and support vibrant and healthy neighborhoods that attract businesses. At a time when every dollar the federal government invests in jumpstarting the economy is critical, the President’s plan ensures that all these agencies are coordinating efforts and targeting resources with precision. Reflecting this new collaboration, these grants were judged by a multidisciplinary review team, drawn from eight federal agencies and from partners in philanthropy.

HUD’s inaugural grants under this program will support metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that incorporate housing, land use, economic development, transportation and infrastructure. This holistic planning approach will benefit diverse areas across the U.S. including \$25.6 million split evenly between regions with populations less than 500,000 and rural places (fewer than 200,000 people). HUD is reserving \$2 million to help all of these areas build the needed capacity to execute their plans.

The grants are awarded through one of two categories. One category of grants will assist regional planning for sustainable development where such plans do not currently exist. A second category of funding will support the implementation of existing sustainability plans.

Shelley Poticha, the director of HUD's new Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities said, "The response to this program is huge. We were inundated with applications from every state and two territories – from central cities to rural areas and tribal governments. This program was designed by people from local government, and incorporated local input at every stage."

###

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.