

2011 HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Grant Program

Background

On June 20, 2011, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released an Advance Notice of Requirements for the 2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. The Notice indicated that \$67 million will be made available in this second round of funding to create stronger, more sustainable communities that connect housing to jobs while fostering local innovation and building a clean energy economy. The official Notice of Funding Availability is not yet available however the press release for the program notes that applications will likely be due this summer.

The Program grants will once again be competitively awarded to support regional planning efforts that integrate housing, land-use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure development in a manner that empowers regions to consider how all of these factors work together to bring economic competitiveness and revitalization to a community. The Grant Program supports two funding categories: 1) the preparation of Regional Plans for sustainable development and 2) the modification of existing regional plans so that they incorporate the Partnership for Sustainable Communities' six Livability Principles.

Approach to Round Two Funds

Following an initial discussion with key project partners on the round one application, for which the region was not awarded funds, the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) has once again agreed to be the lead on an application for round two. The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) will be a co-applicant and will participate in a regional consortium as required by the grant program. Additional consortium members are still being identified and reaffirmed by CDRPC but will likely include local municipalities, the University at Albany, the Center for Economic Growth, CARES, the Affordable Housing Partnership of the Capital Region and other entities which represent a broad perspective in the various issues related to regional sustainable development. The application will once again focus on issues related to Category 1 Funds: preparing regional plans for sustainable development and will largely be a repackaging of the round one application with a tentative budget of roughly \$3 million (this would include the HUD share as well as all local matches, to be determined).

Given the likely very short timeframe to submit a pre-application for funding (possibly due as early as July 21st), CDRPC is asking for CDTC's documented support for the project as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Capital Region. A resolution has been drafted for consideration by the CDTC Planning Committee which is very similar to the one it approved last year. CDTC's participation is also expected to be similar to what was agreed to by the Planning Committee last year. As part of the requested CDTC action, the Policy Board will be asked to approve a resolution supporting the CDRPC application at its September meeting.