

HUD-DOT-EPA
Partnership for Sustainable Communities

Lessons Learned from HUD's 2010 Regional Planning Grant Program

Tim Torma
U.S. EPA, Office of Sustainable Communities
torma.tim@epa.gov



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The Partnership's Mission

To help American families in all communities — rural, suburban and urban — gain better access to affordable housing, more transportation options, and lower transportation costs.



The Partnership's 6 Livability Principles



Provide more **transportation choices**



Expand location- and energy-efficient **housing choices**



Improve **economic competitiveness** of neighborhoods by giving people reliable access to employment centers, educational opportunities, and other basic services.



Target federal funding toward **existing communities** – through transit-oriented development and place-based policies



Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding and increase the effectiveness of existing programs.



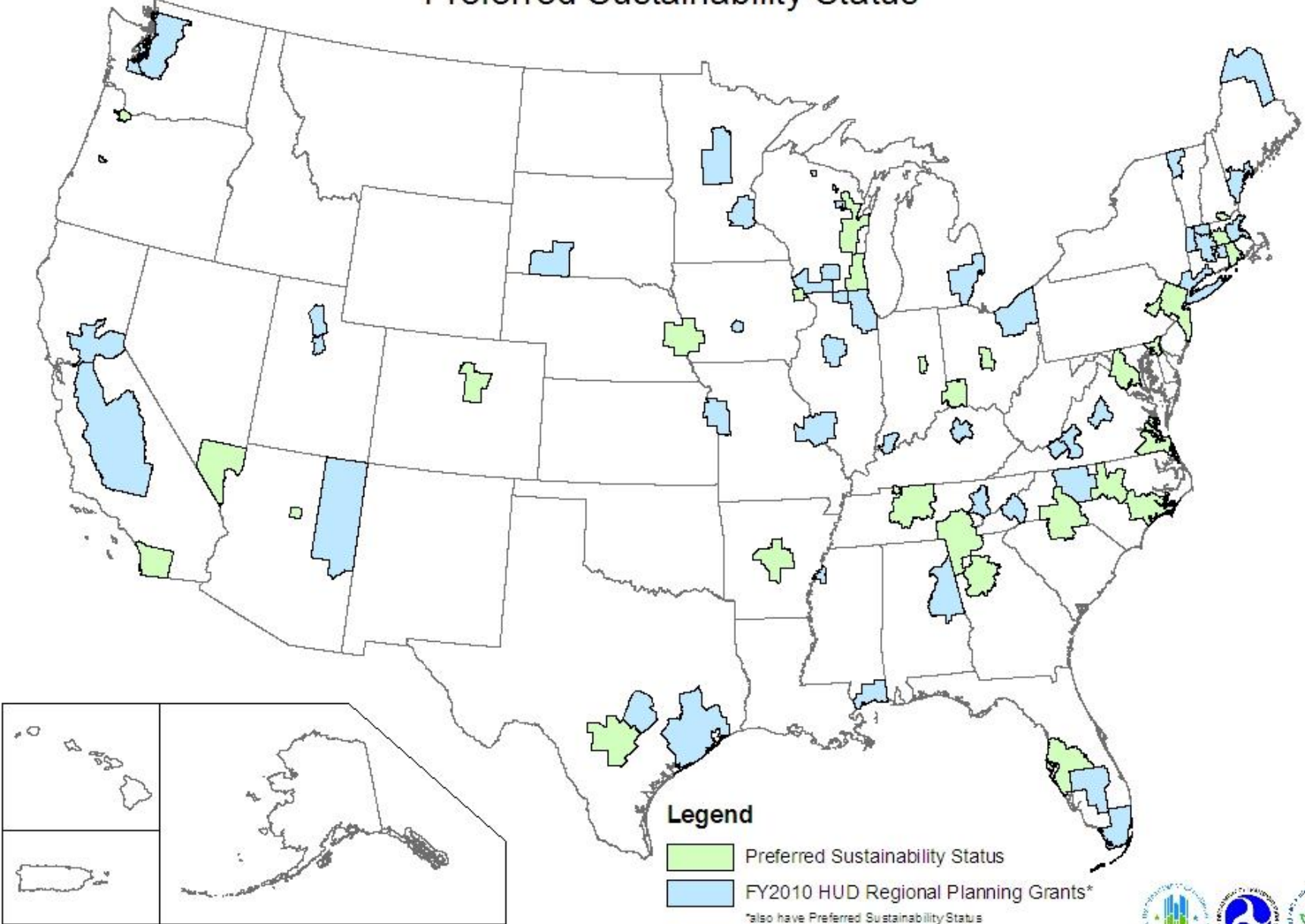
Enhance the **unique characteristics** of all communities, whether rural, suburban or urban.

HUD's 2010 Regional Planning Grant Program

- HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities began two planning grant programs in FY2010.
 - ◆ Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program
 - ◆ Community Challenge Grant Program.
- \$98 million was allocated to FY2010 Regional Grant Competition.



Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants Preferred Sustainability Status



Results

- 45 regions received grants
- 10 of the 25 largest metropolitan areas are participating
- 80 million U.S. residents in jurisdictions that were awarded Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants
- 13 regions from small communities and rural places
- 6 consortia led by nonprofit organization
- 3 regions driven by tribal leadership
- \$120 million in co-investment from partners leverages federal investment
- 29 regions achieved Preferred Sustainability Status



HUD's 2011 Regional Planning Grant Program

- Advance Notice of Requirements for the FY2011 program is now available.
 - ♦ http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=AdvNotOSHC_RegPlnGrant.pdf
- Provides a detailed review of the program requirements that will be expected from the official NOFA.
- HUD will invest \$67 million in these grants in FY2011.



Tips for Writing a Strong Application

1. **Know the NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability).** Read it. Respond directly to it. This was easily the top piece of advice from reviewers. Hands down.
2. **Clearly articulate the need.** (Rating Factor # 2). Do so in a way that tells a story but back it up with data.
3. **Describe a clear pathway** to addressing the story in the need statement (Rating Factor #3, Multiple Rating Factors)
4. Show that you have a **clear and realistic plan to measure progress** (Rating Factor # 5)



Tips for Writing a Strong Application

5. Showed **capacity to do what's desired or a clear plan to get there** even if current capacity is lower. (Rating Factor #3, Others)
6. **The right consortium.** (Rating Factor #1, #4)
 - ◆ Can this group get it done?
 - ◆ Why is the lead applicant the lead applicant?
 - ◆ How diverse is the coalition?
 - ◆ How committed are the members? How is that demonstrated?
7. Ensure that **equity and involvement of underserved/underrepresented populations** and areas of the region will be sustained throughout the process. (Rating Factor #1.c.)



Tips for Writing a Strong Application

8. **Avoid a Chinese menu** of cool sounding projects without linking them to the statement of need and the elements of the RFP.
 - ◆ One reviewer: “Lots of great stuff here, but it is not tied together, does not tell a story, and it’s not clear to me how these items cumulatively address the ranking factors”
9. **Avoid typos and obvious “cut & paste”**



Other Information

- HUD has worked to improve the application process.
 - ◆ Last year 60 applications (some good) did not meet threshold requirements.
 - ◆ HUD has added a pre-application process which allows you to state your threshold requirements while you continue to work on app.
- Do not wait for feedback on preapplication to start work on the application.
- Based on your preapplication, HUD is allowed to tell you what's wrong, but not how to fix it.
- Exact date of NOFA publication not yet certain.



For More Information

About the Partnership:

<http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/>

About the HUD grants:

www.hud.gov/sustainability

About EPA's work in this area:

www.epa.gov/smartgrowth

About DOT's work in this area:

www.dot.gov/livability

