

## **SUPPORT THE EPA SMART GROWTH PROGRAM: ENSURE \$7 Million in FUNDING IN FY2009**

The Smart Growth Program at EPA helps local, state, and regional decision makers grow their communities' economies, protect their environments and public health, and improve their infrastructure.

Last year, EPA attempted to use its administrative authority to slash funding for the office without congressional consent. Congress responded by prohibiting EPA from making the cut and guaranteeing baseline funding.

In order to meet strong demand from communities across the nation, the program should again be protected in the FY 2009 appropriations bill. Congress should also seize the opportunity to growth this successful initiative. \$7 million in annual funding, will allow the program to meet demand for technical assistance and expand its focus on energy and coastal issues.

Sen. Mary Landrieu and other smart growth champions are likely to consider legislation later this year to formally authorize the smart growth program. This effort would further strengthen the ability of EPA to foster innovative solutions and policies in states, regions and neighborhoods. As more communities face increasing development challenges, the program provides a valuable service that is voluntary and market-driven to strengthen and revitalize towns, cities, and localities.

### **EPA Smart Growth Program Accomplishments**

- ✓ Assisted over 170 communities in 45 states over the past 10 years with assistance and grants.
- ✓ Developed more than 10 publications that have received excellent reviews from local governments and organizations, including 'Getting to Smart Growth: 100 Policies for Implementation' and 'Affordable Housing and Smart Growth.'
- ✓ Sponsors the New Partners for Smart Growth conference each year, which brings together 1,500 participants to collaborate on successful solutions.

### **Why is this legislation necessary?**

- ✓ The demand for the EPA Smart Growth program's technical assistance outpaces their current funding; the office receives more than 60 requests a year for only 5 slots.
- ✓ A Smart Growth inter-agency working group would help coordinate existing smart growth programs in various federal agencies

For more information, visit [www.smartgrowthamerica.org](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org).

### **Praise for the Smart Growth Program**

'The Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program provided us with much needed technical assistance and a vocabulary that the community is now using to articulate its vision for the future.' –Mayor Kirk L. Eimers; McCall, Idaho

'[The New Partners for Smart Growth conference] is an extremely rewarding conference for planners, developers, environmentalists, public health advocates, citizens, and elected officials to come together to learn, share knowledge, network, and create ideas.' –Ford P. Weber, Director of Housing and City Services; Roanoke, Virginia

'The [EPA-funded] Governor's Institute has been extremely helpful in assisting our state to develop and implement a cohesive strategy focused on local transportation connectivity within our cities and towns.' –Rhode Island Governor Donald L. Carcieri