



Tool: (Re)Building Downtown

Provider: Smart Growth America

Summary:

SGA's (Re)Building Downtown workshops help communities create walkable development quickly and efficiently. We help local public officials clarify local challenges and identify strategies to do this; including improving regulations for land use, establishing clear public investment practices, and reforming administrative processes. We also work collaboratively to develop data-driven policy arguments to demonstrate the benefits of walkable downtown development.

Description:

Recipients will receive one workshop that brings together elected officials (executive and legislative) and their senior staff, community leaders, downtown business owners developers, agency officials, planners, engineers, and legal experts in order to facilitate a dialogue on how to create a thriving downtown. Invitations to the workshop are sent to as wide of a cross-section of the community to ensure a diversity of perspectives and strong buy in for the action plan.

As millennials seek out thriving, busy downtown spaces, communities across the country are working to create more exciting, inclusive spaces for their residents. This workshop will work with and create momentum among residents for a thriving downtown center. Over the course of the workshop, we will emphasize how a thriving downtown provides increased accessibility to resources, job opportunities, and boosts a community's bottom line.

The workshop will produce a discussion and next steps memo detailing development and redevelopment strategies and priorities, the pipeline of public works and capital projects, public engagement and outreach efforts, and the resources available and needed to support the downtown revitalization. SGA staff will assess critical success factors such as the mix of land uses, and will use these factors as well as input from the workshop to create recommendations for the recipient such as a target mix of housing, commercial and other uses that advance the goals for downtown revitalization.

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