

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant (SCRPG) Program Definition, Goals, and Desired Outcomes

This document provides experts from the SCRPG Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) that describe the SCRPG Program goals and long-term desired outcomes.

Definition of Sustainable Communities

Urban, suburban, and rural places that successfully integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of: 1) economic competitiveness and revitalization; 2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; 3) energy use and climate change; and 4) public health and environmental impact.

SCRPG Goals

1. Foster the development of sustainable communities throughout the United States that are consistent with the following **Livability Principles**:
 - a. **Provide More Transportation Choices.** Develop safe, reliable, and affordable transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce energy consumption and dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.
 - b. **Promote equitable, affordable housing.** Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.
 - c. **Enhance Economic Competitiveness.** Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services, and other basic needs by workers, as well as expanded business access to markets.
 - d. **Support Existing Communities.** Target federal funding toward existing communities—through strategies like transit-oriented, mixed-use development, and land recycling—to increase community revitalization and the efficiency of public works investments and safeguard rural landscapes.
 - e. **Coordinate Policies and Leverage Investment.** Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.
 - f. **Value Communities and Neighborhoods.** Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods—rural, urban, or suburban.

2. Support metropolitan areas and multijurisdictional partnerships that commit to adopt integrated plans, strategies, and management tools to become more sustainable.
3. Facilitate strong alliances of residents and regional interest groups that are able to maintain a long-term vision for a region over time and simultaneously support progress through incremental sustainable development practices.
4. Build greater transparency and accountability into planning and implementation efforts.
5. Expedite implementation of the Livability Principles through changes in local zoning and land use laws and regulations that remove barriers to sustainable development for housing, economic development, transportation, and related water, sewer, and other environmental quality issues.
6. Align local, state, and tribal capital improvement programs with the Livability Principles.
7. Assist all regions to move toward sustainability and livability, and, for the regions that have shown a long-term commitment to sustainability and livability, prepare them for implementation and to demonstrate on-the-ground results.

Long-Term Desired Outcomes

The outcomes of the SCRPG Program will be a generation of regional plans that are configured to produce the following:

1. **Creation of shared elements** in regional transportation, housing, water, and air quality plans tied to local comprehensive land use and capital investment plans.
2. **Aligned federal planning and investment resources** that mirror the local and regional strategies for achieving sustainable communities.
3. **Increased participation and decision-making** in developing and implementing a long-range vision for the region by populations traditionally marginalized in public planning processes.
4. **Reduced social and economic disparities** for the low-income and communities of color within the target region.
5. **Decrease in per capita Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)** and transportation-related emissions for the region.
6. **Decrease in overall combined housing and transportation costs per household.**
7. **Increase in the share of residential and commercial construction on underutilized infill development sites** that encourage revitalization, while minimizing displacement in neighborhoods with significant disadvantaged populations.
8. **Increased proportion of low and very low-income households within a 30-minute transit commute** of major employment centers in urban, suburban, and rural settings.