



Call for Cities to Participate in Planning Grant Proposal

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Deadline for Responses: July 30, 2010

Purpose

The Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) intends to respond to a Notice of Funding Availability for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Challenge Planning Grants.

IDED is seeking cities that would be interested in receiving planning services coordinated by IDED, understanding this would only occur if IDED is successful in receiving a HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant. If awarded, the project would be completed within 3 years.

Cities interested in participating in the grant application can submit a "Request to Participate" form to IDED, included in pages 4 – 7 of this document. After evaluation of request forms, IDED intends to select cities for inclusion in its application to HUD.

Through participation of project partners and professional service providers, IDED would coordinate services that advance the Livability Principles as adopted by the HUD-DOT-EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities.

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/program_offices/sustainable_housing_communities/Six%20Livability%20Principles

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|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Provide more transportation choices | 4. Support existing communities |
| 2. Promote equitable, affordable housing | 5. Coordinate policies and leverage investment |
| 3. Enhance economic competitiveness | 6. Value communities and neighborhoods |

These Livability Principles are compatible with the Iowa Smart Planning Principles passed into law during the 2010 legislative session.

http://www.rio.iowa.gov/resources/legislation/2010_SF2389_smart_planning.pdf

Services for selected cities

Interested cities selected by IDED would receive local planning assistance by service providers selected by IDED, matching locally-identified needs and interests. Each city would receive assistance in the form of services, not direct funding. The approximate monetary value of services provided to each city would likely range between \$50,000 and \$200,000.

IDED would provide staff support to manage the project, procure services, and work cooperatively with the city to integrate federal Livability Principles and Iowa Smart Planning Principles into the project. Each city would:

- 1) Undertake a Comprehensive Plan development process. The plans developed would also integrate information and resources to help implement the community's new or updated Comprehensive Plan in a manner that supports the vision of the community.

- 2) Receive an analysis of their zoning ordinances and related policies to examine how they could be adjusted to implement the new Comprehensive Plan.
- 3) Work with IDED and project partners to design a public participation process to identify methods for the local residents, businesses and stakeholders to be involved in development of the plan and related activities.

Additional services would be available to address unique community needs and interests, in addition to the Comprehensive Plan. The topics related to these services could still be included in each Comprehensive Plan update, but not as extensive for each community. The additional services would add value to, and be coordinated with the comprehensive planning process. Each selected community would receive at least one of the following additional services:

- **Housing Needs Assessment:** This would include a definition of need for housing, a review of current housing policies and incentives, energy efficiency opportunities within low-moderate income housing, recommendations about policies and strategies that would address housing needs in the city, including upper story housing in historic commercial districts.
- **Market Analysis:** This would include an analysis of local/ regional market conditions, potential for local business expansion and recruitment, guide the redevelopment of opportunity sites, and implementation strategies and incentives.
- **Stormwater Analysis and Green Infrastructure Integration Strategy:** This would include an analysis of stormwater runoff volumes and pollutant loads, modeling for best management practices/ green infrastructure, developing concept plans for implementing green infrastructure in new development and within already developed areas. Scenarios and cost estimates would be incorporated into Comprehensive Planning process. More information about these practices can be found at
<http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/FieldServices/urbanConservation.asp>
http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=298
- **Context Sensitive Solutions Transportation Planning Services:** This would include planning services utilizing a Context Sensitive Solutions approach for a transportation project. More information about CSS is at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/context/index.cfm>

Expectations of selected cities

- **Cooperation with agencies / partners:** Cities that would participate in this project would be expected to anticipate regular involvement and technical assistance from the US HUD, US DOT and US EPA, IDED, other state agencies and partners in the duration of the project.
- **Continued participation:** Cities would be expected to have representatives (city staff, elected officials, local partners, etc) present at conference calls and local meetings, review and provide input into the development and delivery of services, receive capacity-building and training assistance, and respond to inquiries related to grant reporting.
- **Local match:** A local cash match is highly encouraged, and may be a pledge associated with a future fiscal year if local funds are obligated for the current fiscal year. Documented staff time dedicated to project is permitted as in-kind match. Local match can be estimated as percentage of services provided through IDED, which represent a monetary value of \$50,000 - \$200,000. Local match is encouraged to cover 10 % to 20% of services costs, or a range of \$5,000 - \$40,000, as it relates to varying levels of services and cities' ability to contribute.
- **Provide content for grant application:** IDED would lead coordination and development of grant application. Cities that are selected in for inclusion in the application would be expected to immediately work with IDED on content of grant application between August 9 and August 20.

Cities and/ or local partners would be expected to provide feedback about the timeline and work plan, provide a map and other local project information, letter of commitment, and evidence of local matching funds.

Evaluation criteria

An Evaluation Committee at IDED will review all submitted request forms and make a selection using the following criteria, which are listed in no particular order:

- **Benefit and impact for community**
Applicant's readiness to implement outcomes of the planning process, local attributes or conditions favorable toward making measurable, identifiable impact.
- **IDED selecting a range of communities and projects**
Geographic distribution, different types of projects, and unique community attributes/ needs to result in a diverse mix of communities and projects for inclusion in the grant application.
- **Previous and continued commitment to Livability Principles and Iowa Smart Planning Principles**
Examples of previous or planned projects and activities that enhance quality of life for all residents, protect natural resources, expand housing opportunities, support transportation choices and walkability, and re-use existing infrastructure, buildings and vacant land.
- **Commitment and capacity to participate in project**
Presence of partners, city staff, elected/ appointed officials; amount of local funding pledged as match or potential leverage; identified availability to participate in conference calls, meetings, and other activities.

Timeline

July 26, 2010	IDED pre-application due to HUD
July 30, 2010	Cities Submit a Request to Participate (5:00 pm deadline)
August 4, 2010	IDED selects cities to participate in application
August 10, 2010	IDED & selected cities meet to discuss application process & project
August 16, 2010	IDED provides draft project proposal to selected cities
August 19, 2010	Selected cities & partners provide letters of commitment
August 20, 2010	IDED submits proposal to HUD
Sept. 15, 2010	HUD makes award decisions

Deadline for Responses

July 30, 2010 (5:00 pm deadline)

For questions and/or to submit your Request to Participate, contact:

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Community Development Division
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