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June 29, 2010

To: TPAC

From: Michael Powers
Deputy Director

Re: July 1, 2010 TPAC meeting, Item 7, Announcements, Federal Program Grant Opportunity

On June 24th SBCAG was notified of a Notice of Funding Availability NOFA that was released for the federal Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). SBCAG staff has reviewed the extensive application package and the major grant elements of funding, eligibility, and selection criteria are summarized below.

Funding Level: The program funding is \$100 million; not less than \$25 million for regions less than 500,000 population, which is the category SBCAG falls within. Overall funding is divided between two categories, Regional Plans for Sustainable Development and Detailed Execution Plans and Programs. SBCAG fits into the former category. Within our funding category the minimum grant size is \$200,000 and the maximum grant is \$2 million. The funds must be expended within 3 years.

Eligible Applicants: While an MPO is clearly eligible, a key provision is the application must be supported by a "consortium" which includes the following members and the Consortium selects the lead agency or applicant. Eligible applicants include:

- The "Principal City or cities" within the Metropolitan Statistical Area, in our case it is labeled "Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc"
- City or County with the largest population
- Additional cities, counties, or units of local government and Indian Tribes that together represent more than 50% of the population within the region
- The MPO (SBCAG)
- A non-profit organization, foundation, or education institution within the region that has the capacity to engage a diverse representation of the general population and the ability to work with the participants listed above.

Role of Consortium: The consortium serves the following function:

- Enter into an formal agreement such as an MOU illustrating proof of partnership
- Designates a lead applicant that assumes overall fiscal responsibility and is generally experienced in federal programs
- Submits a single application

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County

- Leverage a minimum of 20% in additional resources, e.g. in-kind time, but a cash match is not required

Eligible Activities:

- Establish coordinated intergovernmental planning and secure agreements to support the goals of the Sustainable Communities Program
- Develop a comprehensive Regional Plan for Sustainable Development which includes:
 - Adopt a Housing Plan
 - Incorporate equity and fair housing analysis into regional planning
 - Advance regional transportation planning
 - Advance water-infrastructure planning
 - Perform environmental planning
 - Plan for economic development activities
 - Conduct scenario planning
 - Conduct comprehensive climate change impacts assessments
- Identify immediate and long-term policies
- Align infrastructure investment to ensure equitable land use planning
- Ensure public decision-making and meaningful resident participation
- Identify measures to track the progress toward creating sustainable communities
- Strengthen management and decision making capacities on sustainable planning

Preconditions

- Approve “Code of Conduct”
- Insure compliance with Fair Housing and Civil Rights Laws
- Affirmatively further Fair Housing
- Existing Financial systems in compliance with federal standards

Application parameters

- Abstract
- Maximum of 25 pages
- Maximum of 15 pages of Appendices
- Mandatory forms, Rating Factors, Budget, SF-424, etc.

Schedule

- NOFA released June 24th
- Applications due August 23rd
- Decision December, 2010

Application Rating Factors, Point system (102 points)

- Capacity of applicant and organizational experience – 10 points
 - Organizational capacity and qualification - 7 points
 - Experience of consortium organizations in working together, org. chart, dispute and resource allocation procedures, multi-agency experience, experience with outreach to limited English and low income persons.
 - Capability and qualification of Key personnel – 3 points
 - Skills in preparing multi-agency plans and programs, managing complexity
- Need/Extent of problem – 10 points

- Housing costs
 - Median regional housing costs relative to regional household income
 - Proportion paying more than 45% of income to housing and transportation
- Environmental Quality
 - Documented change in urbanized land per capita (1990-2000)
 - Total miles of distribution of water infrastructure per population served by decade (1990-2010)
- Transportation Access
 - Per capita VMT
 - Share of regional trips by mode
- Socioeconomic Inequity
 - Measures of segregation and school poverty by participating community and region (2009)
- Economic Opportunity
 - Availability of subsidized housing within 2 miles of regions 5 largest employment centers
- Fresh food access
 - Proportion of the regional population isolated from fresh, quality food options
- Healthy communities
 - Prevalence of preventable disease
- In addition narrative statement must address additional measures related to housing costs, “Brownfields”, homeless population, displacement, development and employment within high-capacity transit, parks per capita, childhood obesity, among other issues
- Soundness of Approach – 55 points
 - General Description of Proposed Regional Plan for Sustainable Development – 10 points
 - Movement toward sustainable development
 - Use of scenario planning
 - Incorporation of six livability principles
 - Address needs identified above
 - Process to Develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development – 17 points
 - Engagement of low income, minority, disadvantaged communities
 - Inclusion of infrastructure planning
 - Use of data to prepare vision
 - Identification of barriers and means to overcome them
 - Resolve issues of displacement/relocation with new development
 - Development of regional consensus
 - Gap closures
 - Implementation process
 - Governance and Management – 15 points
 - Consortium structure
 - Inclusion of low income, minority, disadvantaged communities
 - Role of members in visioning process
 - Data management plan
 - Project Implementation Schedule - 5 points
 - Task list
 - Milestones
 - Metrics

- Applications Budget Proposal – 3 points
 - Direct, indirect, admin. Costs
 - Separate budget for those who have more than 10% pass thru
- HUDS Departmental Policy Proposal – 5 points
- Matching and Leveraging Resources
 - Capacity building
 - Increase skills and technical expertise of partner organizations
 - Share knowledge among partners
 - Expand cross cutting policy knowledge
 - Leveraging Resources – 4 points
 - >20% to > 50% - 3 – 5 points
 - No federal match allowed
- Achieving Results and Program Evaluation – 20 points
 - Mandatory Outcomes
 - Reduced disparities
 - Decrease in VMT, transportation and housing costs
 - Increase in access to transit
 - Increase in diversity, reduction in segregation of communities
 - Increase in access to alternative modes
 - Decrease in use of undeveloped lands, more equitable distribution of housing
- Economic Distress “Bonus” Points – 2 points
 - Poverty rate greater than 20%
 - Median household income 70% or less of national average, and
 - Unemployment 1.2 times national average
- Total – 102 points

For more information: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program Grant
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=55456>

There are some challenges: formation of a consortium, designation of lead agency by the consortium, emphasis on economic distress and other issues that suggests an SBCAG application may be somewhat less competitive than other areas. The schedule is very tight; applications are due August 24th.