

Introduction

Partnerships for Change (Pfc) Sustainable Communities is a multi-jurisdictional planning assistance program developed by the Land Information Access Association (LIAA), Michigan Municipal League (MML) and Michigan Townships Association (MTA) with support from Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) and the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP). The overall mission of the program is to foster new and expanded cooperation between cities, townships and villages in developing and carrying out local land use policies that contribute to the preservation of cultural and natural resources. Wherever possible, these policies should encourage urban redevelopment and discourage inefficient, low-density development. Administered by LIAA, *Pfc Sustainable Communities* is funded by grants from the **Americana Foundation, C.S. Mott Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Department of Environmental Quality's Coastal Management Program, MML, and MTA.**

Over the past four years, the *Pfc* program has offered educational opportunities as well as grants of technical assistance and professional planning services to partnerships of local governments. Cities, townships and villages in dozens of communities organized to compete for *Pfc* service grants under three separate requests for proposals. Ultimately, the services provided by LIAA fostered new intergovernmental policy and program improvements in 13 geographically dispersed communities, composed of 35 townships and 25 cities and villages. Through these local policy and program changes, the program has touched the lives of well over 800,000 people living in the participating communities.

Program Elements

Professional Services

Professional services and technical assistance provided will be tailored to meet the needs of each participating community. In general, we expect to provide extensive process support and a broad range of services including:

- On-site facilitation services, surveys, workshops and educational support
- Research and analyses (e.g. identifying & evaluating alternatives)
- Geographic analyses and map production
- Development and drafting of land use policies (e.g. plans & ordinances)

Low-Cost Education & Training

Pfc Sustainable Communities offers training programs for municipal officials and others interested in multi-jurisdictional planning and cooperation. These workshops provide information and knowledge to people who are considering the value and potential impact of inter-jurisdictional cooperation. In addition, these workshops provide information about how to start an inter-jurisdictional discussion project. Several of these workshops will be offered jointly by LIAA, MML, MTA, and MAP over the next two years.

Program Evaluation & Reporting

Pfc Sustainable Communities has contracted with an experienced, independent program evaluation expert to assist on elements of program design. The evaluation consultant will use standard survey and interview methods to discover how well the program is being received by municipal officials, the effectiveness of this intervention in bringing about change, and the relative amount of change achieved.

How the Program Works

Levels of Service and Project Complexity

LIAA will provide three types of project assistance, consistent with the needs described by the selected communities. The three types of projects are intended to reflect the relative complexity and anticipated expenses associated with each project.

First Steps Projects will focus on the needs of local governments just beginning to consider inter-jurisdictional cooperation in land use planning. Under *First-Steps Projects*, we will provide communities with the facilitation, information, training and expert assistance to open the discussion and address the basic barriers to cooperation. Most of these service grants will be offered in the first two years to help public officials and local governments prepare for much more substantial projects. To obtain a *First-Steps* service grant, the participating local governments will be required to make a joint application supported by formal resolutions of support. Proposals for *First Steps* service grants may be submitted at any time until June 1, 2010.

Small-Scale service grants will be tailored to fit combinations of cities, townships and villages that have defined an inter-jurisdictional land use planning, regulation or resource management objective for their communities. A *Small-Scale* service grant will provide for a wide range of planning services including, training and facilitation, mapping and geographic analyses, and research and writing. To obtain a *Small-Scale* service grant, the participating local governments will be required to make a joint application in response to an RFP.

Large-Scale service grants will follow the same pattern as *Small-Scale* service grants. In each case, a consortium of local governments will submit an application to become a program participant in response to an RFP. The technical services provided by a *Large-Scale* service grant will form a substantial incentive to local government officials hoping to address community-wide land use planning and regulation issues. *Large-Scale* service grants will focus on the development and adoption of major new inter-jurisdictional land use policies or programs. Each of these projects will help establish replicable community-wide approaches to preserving natural and cultural resources while limiting inefficient low-density development.

Program Timeline

Proposals for a *First Step Service Grant* may be submitted at any time until June 2010. Please refer to the *First-Steps* Request for Proposals (RFP) for additional information in developing a proposal.

To be considered for a *Small-Scale or Large-Scale* Service grant of services under the Request for Proposals (RFP), in this round, multijurisdictional partnerships must submit an application no later than **Monday, September 14, 2009**. Please refer to the general Request for Proposals (RFP) for additional information in developing a *Small-Scale or Large-Scale* project proposal.