



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0050



OFFICE OF ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

One lesson the Obama Administration has learned from our first four years is that America's metropolitan areas and rural communities are struggling to rebound from the economic crisis and compete for jobs on a global scale. Local tax revenues are down, families are slipping out of the middle class and job generating businesses are passing over cities that can't deliver high quality public services and neighborhoods that attract families that want to put down roots. Mayors can't seem to get ahead of these trends to rethink city budgets and regional leaders have billions of dollars of unbuilt infrastructure projects on the books that may or may not be appropriate in these times or attractive to forward-leaning businesses. Recent polls show that almost $\frac{3}{4}$'s of American's believe that their communities are not doing enough economic development planning, yet business planning is the first budget item to be cut.

The Office of Economic Resilience (OER), located within HUD's Community Planning and Development Division, will foster and incubate innovative programs, practices and policies throughout the Department and with other agencies by focusing on partnering with communities to:

- 1) Strengthen and diversify their economies in ways that allow them to effectively compete on a global stage,
- 2) Retain and recruit workers that demand high quality places with robust local services and amenities,
- 3) Address distressed and isolated neighborhoods that minimize access to opportunity for residents, and
- 4) Align and deploy federal, state and local funding for development and infrastructure.

OER will also provide technical assistance to build the capacity of local, regional and state governments, community organizations and business leaders to prepare and execute data-driven community economic development and infrastructure investment strategies, as well as work in partnership with other federal agencies like the Departments of Commerce, Transportation, Agriculture and Energy, Health and Human Services and others.

OER will offer \$75 million in Integrated Planning and Investment Grants that will seed locally-created, comprehensive blueprints that strategically direct investments in development and infrastructure to projects that result in: attracting jobs and building diverse and resilient economies, significant municipal cost savings, and stronger, more unified local leadership. Integrated Planning and Investment Grants will incorporate some of the same features of the previously-funded Regional Plans for Sustainable Communities and the Community Challenge Grants offered by the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, but, using lessons learned from that program and feedback from local leaders, will place a greater emphasis on supporting actionable economic development strategies, reducing redundancy in federally-funded planning activities, setting and monitoring performance, and identifying how federal formula funds can be used smartly and efficiently in support of economic resilience. As with the previous efforts, priority will be placed on directing grants to rural areas, cities, counties, metropolitan areas and states that demonstrate economic need and are committed to building the cross-sector, cross-disciplinary partnerships necessary to tackle the tough decisions that help make places economically competitive. A portion of grant funds will be reserved for small and rural communities and regions.

Getting our regions back on their feet is particularly important when we consider that America's metropolitan areas are where 85% of jobs are located and more than 8-in-10 residents live. Our metros produce over 80% of the nation's patents and exports, and generate 90 cents out of every dollar America produces. Their strength is a measure of our Nation's strength. But as we all know, China doesn't distinguish between Detroit and Troy or LA and Orange County – they see a single region, a single economy, a single competitor. They know that America's regions are competing on an international scale. Yet many of our nation's communities are struggling to make this shift – they are simply trying to stay afloat as jobs move overseas, as families face costly commutes to minimum wage jobs and as tax revenues decline to pay for basic services. What they have asked for are the resources and tools to forge stronger collaborations across regions, building the partnerships necessary to remake their economies and ensure American families retain a high standard of living.