HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative

Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities

Cultivating Vital, High Opportunity Places



Seven50: SE Florida Prosperity Plan

Building Sustained Prosperity

The recession has been hard on Southeast Florida, where half of all construction jobs have been lost since 2007. Now, nearly 1 in 10 Southeast Florida residents are unemployed; 1 in 6 lives below the poverty line, with minority populations more severely affected.

To best tackle these challenges and promote sustained economic growth, the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership (Partnership) is employing short- and long-term approaches to jumpstart the economy while also ensuring that prosperity will last. This work is centered on HUD-funded regional visioning discussions and the development of a SE Florida Prosperity Plan, a strategic long-term economic plan articulating broad-based regional agreement around priority investments in key issue areas such as housing, transportation, environment, climate resiliency and communities. This will be the first comprehensive effort to develop a regional plan for existing jurisdictions in this region, which spans 7 counties and 121 cities.

The process is underway with rigorous data analysis and leadership from a Partnership Executive Committee representing the geography and diversity of the region's stakeholders and interests. The Southeast Florida team is assembling a resource library and a set of statistical indicators that highlight the region's needs and point the way to policies that can address them. Community outreach and capacity building will foster local leadership to help the community create a vision for the future. Focusing on economic growth, the Partnership is investigating a wide range of opportunities, from developing trade to building on the region's flourishing tourism industry.

"Every now and then you've got to ask the hard questions. The one we choose to ask is: How will the Southeast Florida Region evolve over time to ensure that the development of the knowledge-based economy of the 21st century provides opportunity for the inclusive participation of all of the region's residents? With leadership provided by the Partnership and Consortium members, and technical and funding assistance provided by HUD and Consortium partners, these answers can begin to unfold over the next year or two." - Dr. Mark B. Rosenberg, President, Florida International University

Southeast Florida will develop a regional vision that utilizes scenario planning to examine potential shifts in the economy, land use, and transportation network. From there, they will make the leap to implementation with the *SE Florida Prosperity Plan*.

Description

Led by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils, the Partnership is developing "Seven50," a seven county, 50 year, SE Florida Prosperity Plan for sustainable development and prosperity. The project will feature integrated data, tools, and models to assess the region today and lead to agreement around a preferred future and steps to attain that future. Benchmarks, indicators and measurement will ensure accountability and progress.

Grant

2010 HUD Regional Planning grant: \$4,250,000

Local Partner Commitments

Substantial in-kind and cash contributions have been committed in support of the regional effort by Partnership members

Local Partners

The Southeast Florida Regional Partnership is a broad-based, seven county partnership spanning 295 miles from Monroe through Indian River counties. More than 200 organizations have pledged support for this effort.

Benefits

- Creation of a regional forum for discussion and collaboration on issues of importance to the Region now and in the future.
- HUD's technical and financial support are helping local leaders coordinate federal investment. With the support of the Economic Development Administration, the Regional Planning Councils are developing a joint Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy which will integrate state and local economic development efforts and provide a foundation for the SE Florida Prosperity Plan.

For more information visit:

http://seven50.org/
hud.gov/sustainability



HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative *Cultivating Vital, High Opportunity Place*

HUD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE IN FLORIDA

The HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative has been active throughout the Sunshine State.

City of Tampa Community Challenge Grant: \$1,181,250

Tampa Bay's grant will fund a transit-oriented development plan. The <u>plan</u> will help the city connect residents to existing amenities like the Tampa Theatre, while also luring new tenants to the city.

City of Opa-Locka Community Challenge Grant: \$624,479

Economically depressed Opa-Locka is on the federal radar. The Departments of Labor and Transportation have stepped in to fund job training and increase access to employment centers. The HUD Community Challenge grant will further this work through the development of a city-wide comprehensive plan.

Glades Region Community Challenge Grant: \$1,980,504

A predominantly rural area, Palm Beach County will use this funding to develop a Glades Region Master Plan. The plan will serve as a blueprint guideline for development and redevelopment, including a plan for the development of an Intermodal Logistics Center, which is being supported by a major private investment.

East Central Florida Regional Planning Grant: \$2,400,000

In anticipation of the SunRail commuter rail system, East Central Florida will promote transit-oriented development, conduct outreach to marginalized populations and work with partners at the University of Florida to conduct a study that links affordable housing with employment opportunities accessible via transit.

Central Florida Regional Planning Grant: \$1,400,000

In the Heartland of Florida, where agriculture is a major industry and residents value their rural lifestyle, local leaders are intent on balancing their agricultural roots with their need for new sources of economic prosperity. Making strides toward a "clean tech economy," the Heartland 2060 Consortium will complete an economic development strategy centered on alternative fuels and related industries.

Forging Regional Bonds

"Our Region's prosperity and quality of life hinges on our ability to reduce fragmentation and duplicative effort. With the support of the Sustainable Communities Initiative and regional stakeholders, the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership has a unique opportunity to rethink and change "business as usual." Enhanced regional collaboration and strategic investment will set the stage for positive, transformational change." - Ralph A. Marrinson, Chair, South Florida Regional Business Alliance

Southeast Florida's residents share a common history, economy, watershed, and transportation network that transcend city and county lines. "Boundary lines only matter to politicians and map makers," says Marcela Camblor-Cutsaimanis, Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) Project Director. For Florida International University (FIU), this means partnering with the City of Sweetwater, where nearly 20 percent of residents live below the poverty line, to create a "UniversityCity Prosperity Plan." FIU is building upon the Livability Principles to bridge the "towngown" divide with a comprehensive economic development plan to transform the City into a new urban destination linked to the larger region. This is only one example of the innovative initiatives that are being spearheaded by members of the Partnership.

"The Partnership is truly groundbreaking. We know that regions that work together are more successful than regions that don't. The HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant provided the impetus for us to work more closely together. Now it's up to us to build and implement our plan and strategy for long-term prosperity so that we compete as a unified force in the global marketplace." - Isabel Cosio Carballo, the Partnership's Regional Coordinator.

With leadership from two Regional Planning Councils, regional stakeholders are developing a 50 year comprehensive plan for lasting and sustainable economic growth, prosperous and equitable communities, and a healthy environment. Recognizing all that unites them, Southeast Florida is charting a course for an economically competitive future.