

#### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

GREENING OF BROWNFIELDS AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

#### SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: RURAL, SMALL & MEDIUM SIZED COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference Kansas City, Missouri February 7-9, 2013





#### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

- SCDG is a not-for-profit innovator in sustainable community and economic development technical assistance, project design and management, training and public policy.
- SCDG mission is sustainable community building in underresourced places through neighborhood revitalization, equitable development and environmental justice.
- SCDG delivers expertise that advances the mission of communities, elected officials, governmental agencies, public interest groups, civic organizations, institutions, companies, foundations and grantees.





www.sustainablecommunitydevelopmentgroup.org

#### GREENING OF BROWNFIELDS AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOCUS

- Sustainable economic development in rural, small and medium sized cities and towns in America
- Sustainable economic development in under-resourced and low income communities
  - Mayors + Municipalities
  - Tribes + Tribal Organizations
  - Environmental Justice Communities
  - Disadvantaged Brownfields Communities
  - Community Revitalization and Job Creation

# **Rural Policy Research Institute**

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#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS CRITICAL FOR RURAL AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES

- Over 7 million people live in poverty in rural areas.
- While poverty is not just a rural phenomenon, remote and persistently poor rural counties bear a disproportionate share of our nation's poverty burden.
- Poverty rates are higher and more persistent in non-metropolitan areas. From the most urban county to the most rural county, poverty rates are highest in the most remote rural areas.
- High poverty and persistent poverty counties are disproportionately rural as well. Of the 386 persistent poverty counties, 88 percent of them are rural. And they are geographically concentrated in Appalachia, the southeast and Mississippi Delta, the Rio Grande Valley, and Indian Reservations in the Great Plains and Southwest.

# **Rural Policy Research Institute**

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#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS CRITICAL FOR RURAL AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES

- Many factors contribute to the challenges of alleviating high levels and persistence of poverty in rural and smaller cities and towns:
  - the loss of young, highly educated workers
  - economic structures that include limited opportunities or low wage occupations
  - vulnerabilities to business cycles
  - unique characteristics of rural places all contribute to the challenges of alleviating rural poverty
  - structural differentials in federal funding and scale of rural philanthropic commitments

# **ELEMENTS OF THE GOBP**

- 1. WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?
- 2. INTER-AGENCY PROGRAMS + RESOURCES
- 3. INTEGRATING FUNDING/FINANCING SOURCES
- 4. ACCESSING INTER-AGENCY DECISION MAKERS
- Sustainable brownfields cleanup and re-use
- Smart growth, infrastructure and resource efficiency
- Job creation, green jobs and workforce development
- Funding, financing and public/private partnerships
- Green buildings and green affordable housing
- Renewable energy production and green technologies
- Preserving historical and cultural resources
- Equitable development and environmental justice (EJ)



#### Engages Diverse and New Partners and Collaborators

- Mayors and Rural, Small and Medium Sized Places
- African American Mayors
- Tribes and Tribal Organizations
- Environmental Justice Communities
- Family Farmers



#### Twenty-Three Technical Assistance Workshops and Issue Forums

 1500 Municipal Officials, 350 Mayors over 1/2 of whom are African American Mayors

Alabama Georgia Mississippi North Carolina

 SCDG e-newsletter – nationwide circulation – 3800 recipients – 600 African American Mayors



SCDG Connects Mayors Nationally with Experts, Best Practices and Multidisciplinary Stakeholders

- Capitol Hill Summit on Sustainable Communities, Environmental Justice and the New Economy 2009
- EPA Brownfields Conferences
  2009 + 2011 + 2013
- EPA New Partners for Smart Growth Conferences
  2011 + 2012 + 2013



GOBP engages, partners and collaborates with a broad range of stakeholders in the program and SCDG's technical assistance delivery.

- Federal and State Agencies
- Tribes and Tribal Organizations
- Rural and Community Development Institutions
- State Municipal Leagues
- Statewide Mayors Associations
- Colleges and Universities, HBCUs
- Environmental Justice Organizations
- Foundations

# GOBP FEDERAL INTERAGENCY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE APROACH



### CRITICAL INTER-AGENCY SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCES

- EPA environmental cleanup as catalyst (HQ + R4)
- USDA small and rural 35k pop < rural water, rural development
- HUD planning, green/affordable housing, economic development
- DOT transportation infrastructure
- DOE energy efficiency and renewables
- HHS planning, healthy communities
- EDA economic development
- US Army Corps of Engineers waterways resources

# FUNDING AND FINANCE ISSUES

- Smaller economies are less resilient
- Small/shrinking municipal budgets/revenues
- Limitations on human capital, resources
- Access to green infrastructure and green economy tools
- Access to developers and investors

## GOBP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

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# TA/resource delivery to under-resourced rural and small towns that:

- Provides linkages to information resources and contacts that can facilitate local decision-making, project planning and prioritization
- Opens the door to and navigating federal and state programs
- Delivers TA through one-on-one, group and workshop
- Identifies and leverages additional federal, state, local and private sector investment
- Fosters optimal local and regional projects, planning, strategies and approaches

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**





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