

Applicant's plans must identify trends that are changing the shape of the metropolitan area—both cities and counties—such as: growing populations, demographic shifts, expanding and more complex transportation needs, environmental challenges, changing land use patterns that include declining density and loss of open space and farmland, the shortage of affordable housing in locations close to jobs and employment centers, changing location and composition of job markets, and as our population ages, the need for accessible housing, among other things. Many of these emerging issues cannot adequately be addressed independently in an individual neighborhood or community, but are more appropriately addressed at the city, regional or metropolitan level. Neighborhoods, cities and suburbs must plan for their futures in ways that recognize and address these changes.

Applicants should also be aware of HUD-required Consolidated Plans that cities (with populations of 50,000 or more) and urban counties (with populations of 200,000 or more) are required to prepare in order to receive Community Development Block Grant and other formula grant funds. These are 3–5 year plans that include a detailed housing needs assessment and specific actions that the community will take to address these needs, as well as other community and economic development activities. Community Futures Planning Grants provide applicants with an opportunity to build on these plans, by extending them to a regional level, using the housing needs data already gathered, and to expanding the time frame to 20 years. Regional councils of governments and metropolitan planning organizations also prepare long-range transportation and land use plans. Applicants should review these plans and identify appropriate steps to coordinate the planning efforts to be mutually supportive.

The plans should identify key elements that impact the growth, financial stability and quality of life of cities or communities within a region, including but not limited to the following:

- Population growth, diversity, and locational trends;
- Changing housing needs, affordability issues, and the range of housing types needed by diverse income and population groups, including, for example, female-headed households, single households, the elderly and persons with disabilities;
- Changing energy and transportation needs;

- Changing job and employment markets; and

- Infrastructure needs including water, sewer, and communications infrastructure that will allow for industry and business growth.

Plans must also provide three or more scenarios that describe alternative population, land use and growth patterns that result from the assessment of these trends. The scenarios must address the physical shape of the urban landscape as it develops over the next two or more decades. Alternative development patterns may be modeled to include such factors as varying transportation assumptions, alternative density patterns, alternative employment, job growth and commercial development trends, and alternative environmental (air and water quality, and other) impacts. These scenarios must be documented in the form of one or more plans utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) or other computer modeling tools as described below.

Applicants must make use of GIS systems, visual simulation and other computer modeling tools to model and document alternative development trends. Applicants must also undertake an extensive outreach process in developing the plan. Outreach activities should include such activities as community meetings or design charrettes, and other activities that include citizens and groups such as civic and non-profit organizations, elected and appointed officials, Chambers of Commerce, representatives of the business or development community, public housing resident management organizations and public housing officials. Web sites and other forms of electronic communications may be utilized.

Additionally, completed plans must include a priority listing of projects designed to address local needs to be presented to community officials and other stakeholders for possible adoption as a roadmap for future development of the metropolitan area/region. Applicants should determine the appropriate scale for the plans.

For the purpose of these Planning awards, the urban area covered may be city-wide, county-wide or metropolitan area-wide, since much of future growth will be across jurisdictional boundaries. Additionally, applicants must identify one or more local communities and model how the metro-wide changes being proposed for adoption will impact these communities, the implications of these changes for these communities, and local strategies for addressing them.

#### IV. Threshold Requirements

In addition to the threshold requirements identified in the General Section of this SuperNOFA, applicants must meet the following additional threshold requirements for an application to be considered for funding. Applications that do not meet these requirements will be considered ineligible for funding and will be disqualified.

(1) Applicants must be an eligible applicant, as referenced in Section III (B) "Eligible Applicants."

(2) Applicants must create a Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) to carry out the proposed activities.

(3) Applicants must meet the following, statutorily set match requirements:

(a) Research Activities. 50 percent of the total project costs of establishing and operating research activities.

(b) Outreach Activities. 25 percent of the total project costs of establishing and operating outreach activities.

(4) Total project costs do not include the cost of any housing units built by a participating developer or builder. For each match, cash or in-kind contribution provided applicants must submit a letter of commitment.

Applicants may not count as meeting the match requirements any costs that would be ineligible for funding under this NOFA. An applicant's match is evaluated as percentage of the total cost of establishing and operating research and outreach activities, not just the federal grant amount. Please remember to base the calculation on the Total Amount. Applicants must use Form HUD-30001 "Community Outreach Partnership Centers Matching Requirements" (included in Appendix A) to show how the match requirements have been met. Applicants are also required to include Form HUD-30012, "Verification of the Match" (included in Appendix A) to determine if a sufficient match has been provided. Please note on this form by each commitment listed if the match is an inside or outside commitment.

(5) For each match, cash or in-kind contribution, a letter of commitment, memorandum of understanding, or agreement must be provided that shows the extent and firmness of the commitment of leveraged funds (including any commitment of resources from the applicant's own institution) in order for the resources to count in determining points under this factor. Resources will not be counted for which there is no commitment letter, memorandum of understanding, or