



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
from
**Community Outreach Consultants for
Connecticut, Westchester and Long Island**
Letters of Inquiry Due November 23, 2011

I. Introduction

The New York-Connecticut Sustainable Communities Consortium, a collaboration of nine cities, two counties and six regional planning organizations supported by an Advisory Board of state officials and regional non-profit organizations, is seeking up to three field organizers to assist in its public outreach efforts. As the recipient of a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the partnership seeks to reposition the New York-Connecticut region to fully harness its innovation capabilities in a competitive global environment, build on its strong foundation of energy efficiency, and become as equitable as it is efficient. The primary focus for achieving these goals is to link strategies that develop mixed-income housing and employment at key nodes in the nation's most extensive and robust transit network. In all of its activities, the consortium will make a concerted effort to execute public engagement practices that ensure meaningful, ongoing resident participation.

II. Scope of Work

Organizing and sustaining the involvement of community partners, municipal leaders, advocacy organizations, and other stakeholders to participate in a regional effort of this scale is a challenging task that involves extensive outreach, leadership and representation, and relating local concerns to a regional agenda. To help insure that outreach efforts effectively engage community leaders from a broad range of constituencies, field organizers will supplement outreach activities that will be carried out by the consortium for a range of project initiatives.

The intent is to retain three organizers—one each for Connecticut, Westchester and Long Island—for remuneration of \$25,000 per organizer for a six-month period beginning in January 2012. Services will include the following:

1. Assist project managers to identify organizations and leaders that can effectively represent a broad range of community, social equity and environmental justice constituencies.
2. Advise project managers on meeting design and outreach activities to maximize meaningful participation from these constituencies, including translation services and methods for including non-English speakers.
3. Disseminate information and encourage participation in SCI activities through individual meetings with targeted leaders, leading discussions at community forums, and other activities.
4. Participate in a one-day workshop and develop long-term strategies for community engagement.

Organizers will contract with and be managed by Regional Plan Association acting as fiscal agent for the NY-CT Sustainable Communities Consortium, and will work closely with project managers from individual project sites. Services may be targeted to any of the following projects based on the needs of each location and available resources:

Coastal Connecticut

- **Stamford East Main Street Station:** The city will explore the feasibility of constructing a new commuter rail station on its east side, acting as eastern anchor to the Urban Transitway Corridor opposite the city's main station and catalyzing redevelopment of several hundred acres in this transit-rich corridor. The project is part of a comprehensive, citizen-driven action strategy to lay a foundation for long-term economic growth, energy efficiency, environmental quality and reduced economic disparity.
- **South Norwalk TOD:** Norwalk will take the first steps towards implementing a recently completed transit-oriented development master plan for the neighborhood of South Norwalk, attracting new investment while retaining quality of life for existing residents and businesses. Outcomes will include increased economic opportunity and mixed-income housing within the South Norwalk neighborhoods, and improved public transit/circulator, pedestrian and bike access to the South Norwalk train station
- **Bridgeport Barnum Station:** Bridgeport will explore the feasibility of constructing a new commuter rail station on its east side, acting as a central anchor to the city's east side redevelopment opportunities totaling over 400 acres. In addition to helping revitalize Connecticut's largest and one of its most impoverished cities, the project will promote mixed-use, transit-oriented development and affordable housing around the distressed East End and East Side neighborhoods.
- **New Haven Union Station:** The project is intended to convert the existing historic Union Station into a new mixed use intermodal transit-oriented community. As part of a larger plan, the city will move conceptual plans to the implementation phase for structuring parking near the commuter and inter-city rail station to free up land that is currently being used as surface parking for new transit-oriented development.

Westchester

- New Rochelle Smart Growth Initiative: New Rochelle will implement a comprehensive strategy to promote commercial and residential development in proximity to the New Rochelle Transit Center as outlined in the City's draft Sustainability Plan. The resulting Transit Oriented Development Zone will help residents lead healthy, safe, affordable, and productive lives and connect to the Connecticut projects along the New Haven line and Yonkers and Mt. Vernon in the Cross County Corridor.
- Cross County Parkway Corridor Action Plan: The cities of Yonkers, Mount Vernon and New Rochelle, in collaboration with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, will define sustainable communities issues and planning needs in the east-west Cross County Parkway corridor which connects these lower Hudson Valley cities. A corridor profile will be developed for use in the development of NYMTC's next Regional Transportation Plan.
- I-287/Tappan Zee Bridge Corridor Action Plan: The City of White Plains, in collaboration with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, and in consultation with other I-287 corridor communities, will define sustainable communities issues and planning needs in the Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor, including connections to railway and other transit hubs, existing and planned. A corridor profile will be developed for use in the development of NYMTC's next Regional Transportation Plan.

Long Island

- Nassau Infill Redevelopment Study: The County will conduct a feasibility study of sustainable infill development and opportunities to promote transit-oriented development around up to three of the 19 LIRR stations in the Preliminary Regional Nassau Hub Study Area. Building off the County Executive's Job Creation and Retention Plan, this study creates opportunities for serving the needs of current and future residents by: 1) rethinking land use patterns; 2) fostering transit oriented development 3) reducing auto dependence; 4) lowering carbon footprint and; 5) expanding population and tax base.
- Suffolk County Transfer of Development Rights Study: With a history of innovative open space protection programs, Suffolk County will develop recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of current transfer of development rights (TDR) programs in order to reduce redundancy and increase efficiency to better promote workforce housing, downtown revitalization, open space preservation, natural resource protection, transit-oriented and targeted economic development. Outcomes should be applicable to similar parts of the regions and growing exurban areas throughout the U.S.
- Long Island Housing Strategy: The Long Island Regional Planning Council, working with the counties of Nassau and Suffolk and other partners, will perform research, outreach and public education on the needs, benefits and impediments to increasing the availability of mixed income housing. The outcome will include a "Fair Share Housing Plan" to create mixed income housing options for all distributed throughout Long Island in transit supported locations.

III. Submittal

Interested parties should submit a letter of qualifications showing relevant past experience and key staff that will be involved. Experience should include community outreach or organizing in the specified geographic area. Ability to speak two or more languages will receive strong consideration. Please submit qualifications NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON NOVEMBER 23, 2011 to:

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