

ABSTRACT

New Hampshire Sustainable Communities Initiative Project Summary

PROJECT TITLE: New Hampshire Sustainable Communities Initiative

LEAD APPLICANT: Nashua Regional Planning Commission

PROJECT DIRECTOR: Kerrie Diers, Executive Director Nashua RPC

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POPULATION LEVEL: Large Region – Total Population: 1,316,470

APPLICATION CATEGORY: Category 1

TOTAL BUDGET: \$4,565,039

HUD REQUEST: \$3,369,648

APPLICANT MATCH: \$1,195,391

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: All NH Districts

LOCATIONS INCLUDED: State of New Hampshire, including the territory of:

Metropolitan Planning Organizations/Regional Planning Commissions:

- Nashua Regional Planning Commission
- Rockingham Planning Commission
- Southern NH Planning Commission
- Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Rural Regional Planning Commissions:

- Central NH Planning Commission
- Lakes Region Planning Commission
- North Country Council
- Southwest Region Planning Commission
- Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

NH is a small state with a total population just over 1.3 million. Given that our State's population could fit within the boundaries of many of the nation's major cities we are presented with the unique opportunity to create a truly integrated approach to planning, not just in one city or region, but across the state as a whole. The New Hampshire Sustainable Communities Initiative (NH SCI) is an innovative statewide project that will enable communities to create fully-integrated, place-based, sustainable development plans. Over the last several years, the nine Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) in NH have prepared a foundation for success by building collaborative relationships and demonstrating the necessity of regionally coordinated strategies. In 2010, 88 partners committed their time and resources to the Initiative and earned HUD's Preferred Sustainability Status in the 2010 Regional Planning Grant round, although were not funded.

The 2011 NH SCI will be led by a consortium of partners that includes: 67 municipalities and 3 county governments; all 4 of the NH Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and 5 RPCs; 9 state agencies and organizations such as the NH Departments of Transportation, Health and Human Services, Environmental Services, the Office of Energy Planning, and NH Housing Finance Authority; and, a broad cross-section of community partners from a variety of sectors including the University of New Hampshire, Healthy Eating Active Living NH, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and others. In addition, the Initiative will use an extensive, coordinated and consistent public involvement process specifically designed to engage a broad cross-section of each community including traditionally marginalized populations.

The Initiative will provide a planning structure, tools and support that increase our state's ability to: engage communities; integrate planning across sectors; identify, share and replicate successful projects; and, implement high quality, cohesive sustainable development practices. Together these practices will make it possible for large communities and small villages throughout the state to achieve economic vitality while safeguarding the natural resources, character and rural landscapes that we so deeply value.

Objectives

The objectives of this project are to:

- Increase the capacity of the state to create integrated, coordinated, sustainable regional plans.
- Establish a consistent planning and policy framework that aligns local, regional and State plans.
- Coordinate local plans into an overall statewide strategy.
- Capitalize on and incorporate shared principles and policies included in our existing plans.
- Plan for public infrastructure investment in local comprehensive land use plans and direct capital investment toward appropriately scaled centers that fulfill regional needs.
- Federal, State and local planning and investment resources align to fulfill local and regional priorities.

Each plan will:

- Address the unique needs of local and regional communities.
- Meet regional planning requirements of US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs.
- Integrate sustainability principles into planning for housing, transportation, water infrastructure, natural resources, economic development, climate change and adaptation, and energy efficiency.
- Conduct scenario planning that informs future development patterns.
- Identify and prioritize place-based implementation projects.

Expected Results for the People of New Hampshire

The practices that result from this initiative will have a direct impact on the quality of life for the people of New Hampshire. Specifically, we expect to see:

- Reduced social and economic disparities for low-income and communities of color within the region.
- Shared elements in regional transportation, housing, water, and air quality plans that are tied to local comprehensive land use.
- Alignment of federal planning and investment resources that mirror local and regional strategies.
- Increased participation and decision-making in developing and implementing a long-range vision for the region by populations traditionally marginalized in public planning processes.
- Decreased per capital vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and transportation- related emissions for the region.
- Decreased overall combined housing and transportation costs per household.
- Increased proportion of low and very low-income households within a 30-minute transit commute of major employment centers in urban, suburban and rural settings.
- Increased proportion of affordable housing units located close to walking trails, parks green space, and vital amenities such as hospitals and schools.
- Increased share of residential and commercial construction on underutilized infill development sites that encourage revitalization while minimizing displacement of disadvantaged populations.
- Increased proportion of homes and rental units affordable to a full range of household incomes close to high-quality transit service in urban areas or within traditional town centers in rural areas.
- Improved health outcomes that result from creating safer, more walkable neighborhoods
- Increased number of communities prepared for flooding and other climate change related impacts.
- Increased investments in water infrastructure for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems.

In addition to serving the needs of New Hampshire's communities, the NH SCI will serve as a model for a cost-effective, integrated approach to planning that may be replicated by other communities throughout the United States.

RATING FACTOR NARRATIVE

Factor 1: Capacity of the Applicant & Relevant Organizational Experience

A. Organizational Capacity and Qualification

The New Hampshire Sustainable Communities Initiative (NH SCI) Consortium represents the entire State of New Hampshire with a population of 1.3 million. The Consortium consists of 99 partners: 4 MPO/Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs), 5 RPCs, 9 State Agencies, 9 non-profit organizations, the University of New Hampshire (UNH), ActionMedia, 3 County governments, and 67 municipalities.

This effort was initiated on the heels of the momentum created through the 2010 HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative. Although not funded, the 2010 NH SCI proposal was granted Preferred Sustainability Status by HUD and acted as a catalyst for continued discussions throughout the state. The NH Transportation and Land Use Roundtable (TLU Roundtable) was convened by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) in collaboration with the RPCs to engage housing, land use, transportation, and public health stakeholders in conversations around the need to develop a vision of sustainable planning and development in New Hampshire.

Through a series of meetings, the TLU Roundtable developed a set of Livability Principles guided by the HUD Partnership, but unique to NH, and the beginnings of a framework for sustainable regional and local plans. They compared various statewide policy plans, such as the Consolidated Plan developed through the NH Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA), to ascertain their effectiveness in meeting the Livability Principles. This framework will be the umbrella for planning to be aligned at all levels, from a rural, municipal Master Plan to the State Development Plan. The TLU Roundtable will meet during the first quarter of the NH SCI project to complete their work and set the stage for the SCI Consortium.

Overview of Consortium Organizational Structure, Roles, Responsibilities, and Procedures

Nashua Regional Planning Commission (RPC/MPO) will serve as the lead applicant and primary administrative point of contact with HUD. To ensure statewide coordination and consistency among plans and integration of work between partners, the Consortium requires a tiered system of committees and subcommittees as *demonstrated in the organizational chart included in the Appendix - Factor 1A*.

The Executive Committee comprised of the nine RPC Executive Directors, will serve as the overall decision-making body for the Consortium to allocate resources, set goals, guide program alignment between regions, monitor progress, establish common methodologies, ensure overall coordination and efficiencies, and resolve differences. This committee will meet monthly to monitor progress of the program provide overall direction. *See Rating Factor 3: Section A3 for a detailed description of procedures.* In conjunction with the Executive Committee, the Program Manager, will implement the program and coordinate partners and committees. The Program Manager will convene an initial meeting of the Sustainability Policy Committee, who will caucus to elect a chairperson.

The Sustainability Policy Committee will incorporate the work of the TLU Roundtable and recommend a consistent statewide sustainability policy framework to the Executive Committee. The Sustainability Policy Committee will also review the findings and finished products of each of the nine Regional Plans for Sustainable Development (RPSD) and assess their consistency with each other and the Livability Principles. They will ensure consistency between the Technical Advisory Subcommittees and the Regional Advisory Committees. Sustainability Policy Committee members have agreed to meet quarterly and represent state wide policy and equity planning interests.

Each RPC will establish a Regional Advisory Committee that meets their region's unique needs. Duties will include: conduct and facilitate the RPSD and outreach processes, review local information, recommend adoption of the plans to the RPC Commissions (Boards), prioritize implementation, participate in consensus plan process, and track progress. Each Regional Advisory Committee will have establish a Regional Equity

Team that is comprised of representatives of underserved and marginalized populations in their region that will ensure the voices of these populations are reflected in the RPSD.

The Technical Advisory subcommittees will be created based on the six NH Livability Principles developed by the TLU Roundtable plus equity and outreach. Each subcommittee will be chaired by a member of the Sustainability Policy Committee. The subcommittees, comprised of subject matter experts, will provide technical assistance and statewide coordination of the planning process, over the three-year project timeline. Duties include conducting statewide studies that can bring efficiency to the nine RPCs, advising the Sustainability Policy Committee and researching methodologies and issues. The charge of the Equity and Engagement Technical Advisory Subcommittee is to identify underserved and marginalized populations within the regions and empower them to work with the RPCs and serve on the on Regional Equity Teams.

Consortium membership and their specific roles (see *Appendix Factor 1A for complete descriptions*) include *Rural Regional Planning Commissions and NH Metropolitan Planning Organizations*: Oversee development and completion of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD). Staff the regional visioning and planning processes, identify sustainability strategies and implementation projects and draft the RPSDs. Serve on the Regional Advisory Committees and Regional Equity Teams. *State Agencies and Quasi-Governmental Organizations*: NH Community Development Finance Authority (NHCDFA); NH Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA); NH Departments of Cultural Resources (DCR), Environmental Services (DES); Resources and Economic Development (DRED), Health and Human Services (DHHS); NH Department of Transportation (DOT); NH Employment Security (NHES); and, NH Office of Energy and Planning (OEP). The Agencies will serve on the SCI committees; provide a wide range of expertise and resources, and access to their constituents. *Cities, Towns and Counties* within each RPC region will be direct participants in regional visioning and the development of the RSPDs and assist in identifying and prioritizing strategies and projects for their regions. *A Diverse Range of Community Partners representing Non-Profits and Academic Institutions* will further increase community engagement, evaluate our progress, and integrate planning efforts, data and expertise from a variety of sectors. Community partners include: Conservation Law Foundation (CLF); Healthy Eating Active Living NH (HEAL); NH Charitable Foundation (NHCF); NH Energy and Climate Collaborative; NH Creative Communities Network (CCN); Family Assistance Advisory Council of NH (FAAC); Plan NH; and the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Carsey Institute, NH GRANIT, Carbon Solutions New England, and Cooperative Extension.

Members of the consortium will sign MOUs within 120 days of grant award which will address: procedures for electing committee chairs; meeting, quorum, and voting requirements; and, committee goals, tasks and deliverables. MOUs will also articulate each member's commitment to contribute leveraged services to the project by attending meetings, providing data and analysis to the project, and implementing the work plan.

Partner Capacity and Relevant Experience

Regional Planning Commissions: The nine RPCs in NH were established under a state enabling statute in the early 1960s for the purpose of fostering coordinated planning among municipalities in their respective regions. NH's RPCs have developed close working relationships with their members and enjoy 94% membership support statewide. The RPCs are integrated with state level planning functions, serving as an efficient conduit for providing technical services at the community level. Each of the RPCs has extensive and recent experience in large-scale planning. In the past five years most of the RPCs have completed the *Regional Housing Needs Assessment* and incorporated a new state law governing workforce housing. During the same time period all of the MPO's completed *Long Range Plan and Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan and Architecture*. The RPCs have successfully developed *Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plans* in collaboration with local transit providers, to identify strategies to meet the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with lower incomes, with an emphasis on increasing access to jobs, schools, medical centers, and other essential human services. The *NH broadband infrastructure mapping and planning* effort is a five-year telecommunications collaborative effort of

the same scale as the HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative, coordinated by UNH, and funded through the US Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

Eight of the nine RPCs have completed Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration funded regional *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies* (CEDs) that cover a full range of community development activities including housing, commercial and industrial development projects, business expansion, growth of regional institutions, and the infrastructure needed to support development including roads, water and sewer and required extensive outreach to municipal officials and stakeholders. The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC (UVLSRPC) participated in the *Workforce Housing Advisory Council*, which produced a *Meeting the Workforce Housing Challenge, A Guidebook for New Hampshire Municipalities* and as a 2010 HUD Community Challenge Grantee, is mapping healthy food sources in relationship to housing.

NH has a long history of collaboration among local and regional planning, state agencies, and the non-profit community. Recent initiatives have included the NHDOT Community Technical Assistance Program (RPCs, OEP, DOT, DRED, and municipal representatives) that is guiding the citizen input for a major expansion of the Interstate 93, the backbone of NH's infrastructure; and the Citizen Planner Collaborative (OEP, UNHCE, NHHFA, RPCs, DCR, DES, NHMA, NHCF, DOT). The NH SCI will coordinate with NHHFA's 2011 HUD Community Challenge Grant Application that seeks to integrate the work of the RPCs by providing opportunities for municipalities to implement the work outlined in this application.

The NH SCI partners have also committed to share their expertise by serving on the following Technical Advisory Committees: *Organizational descriptions for each partner are included in the Appendix - Factor 1A.*

- *Compact Development Patterns, Smart Growth and Land Use Planning subcommittee:* OEP, PlanNH, DCR
- *Housing Choices subcommittee:* NHHFA, NH Community Loan Fund
- *Transportation Choices subcommittee:* DOT, CLF, DES
- *Natural Resource Functions and Quality subcommittee:* NH Department of Environmental Services
- *Community and Economic Vitality subcommittee:* CDFA, HEAL, DHHS, FAAC, DCR, DRED, CNN, NHES
- *Climate Change and Energy Efficiency subcommittee:* DES, UNH Sustainability Academy and Carbon Solutions New England, CDFA, NH Energy and Climate Collaborative
- *Equity and Engagement subcommittee:* UNH Carsey Institute and Cooperative Extension, ActionMedia (contractor), DHHS, NHHFA, Community Loan Fund, HEAL, FAAC
- *Other Program Assistance and Advisors subcommittee:* NH GRANIT, NH Charitable Foundation, NH Municipal Association, NH Charitable Foundation

B. Capability and Qualifications of Key Personnel

Consortium partners collectively have committed the time and expertise of 95 staff members and include land use planners, lawyers, experts on historic preservation, arts and culture, public health, water infrastructure and environmental planning, transportation, energy, housing, economics, data and mapping, emergency management, communications, and others. *See the Rating Factor 1 Form for staff commitment details.*

The Project Director for the NH SCI project will be Kerrie Diers, Executive Director of the Nashua RPC. Ms. Diers has been instrumental in developing integrated planning programs on the local, regional and state levels in the State of NH for the past 15 years. Most recently, she developed the Integrating Transportation and Community Planning Program (iTRaC) in the Nashua region that assists communities in proactively dealing with growth in a sustainable, integrated manner while maintaining a sense of place. In addition, the Nashua Region has been essential to the NHDOT Community Technical Assistance Program guiding the public process for widening of the I-93 corridor. *Resume included in Appendix Factor 1B.*

The Program Manager: This project will be managed by Jennifer Czysz. Prior to joining Nashua RPC, Jennifer served as a Senior Planner at OEP where her work centered on land use policy, municipal and

regional planning assistance, and water resources. She has served as President and Vice President of NHPA. Previously, she was a regional planner at Southern NH Planning Commission focusing on housing, natural hazard mitigation, emergency management planning, and local land use planning. She is a 2001 graduate of MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning with a Masters in City Planning and a Certificate in Urban Design and holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Norwich University. *See Appendix Factor 1B.*

Consortium Partner Staff: Each of the RPCs' commissions will use existing staff to develop the RPSD. All RPCs currently employ a broad team of planning professionals with expertise in land use, transportation and environmental planning, as well as GIS and data analysis and will employ a team approach to plan development. The RPCs have dedicated 50 staff members that will contribute to the proposed SCI scope of work. *Refer to Exhibit 3 for selected staff biographies, Appendix Factor 1B, and letters of commitment.*

C. Capacity to Address Economic and Social Disparities

The NH SCI Consortium has developed an Equity and Engagement Technical Advisory Subcommittee whose members represent state and regional agencies that have a core mission of serving traditionally marginalized populations. The Equity and Engagement team is responsible for helping to identify what economic and social disparity aspects must be incorporated into plans and assist the RPCs with facilitating outreach to those traditionally marginalized populations to strengthen engagement in the planning process.

Working with ActionMedia, the NH SCI will develop strategies to engage people from minority and less privileged communities. ActionMedia provides strategic communication services to people working for positive social change. Through workshops, consultation, media analysis, focus group research, interviews and close readings, we will increase the clarity and power of communications for action. Through this planning process, the consortium will ensure that economic and social disparities are identified, addressed and strategies to resolve them are developed in each region across the state.

The civic engagement capacity of the Carsey Institute will be utilized through NH Listens, a statewide organization that facilitates public deliberation of problems confronting local, regional, or state interests. NH Listens works with partners to frame issues, train facilitators, design deliberative processes, conduct face-to-face dialogues, and assist in the translation of dialogue into concrete actions.

RPCs have partnered with economic development organizations to develop a regional CEDS to formulate plans to create jobs, foster stable and diversified economies, and improve living conditions. It also creates a system to coordinate the efforts of individuals, organizations, local and regional governments, and other economic enterprises, and can seamlessly be incorporated in the RPSDs.

NHHFA, the State's housing finance agency, is NH's administrator of HOME Investment Partnership funds, and is the lead agency for the development of the state's *Consolidated Plan* and the *Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice* (AI). Partnership with NHHFA will leverage critical resources needed to coordinate the regional housing plans with the Consolidated Housing Plan and AI. The recently completed AI includes the largest fair housing survey of low-income New Hampshire residents ever conducted. NHHFA maintains an extensive array of housing research and the recognized leader in housing data and conditions in the State. NHHFA has a long history of collaboration with the RPCs and has pledged to continue to provide data and guidance in support of the RPCs in the development of the RPSDs.

Factor 2: Needs and Extent of the Problem

A. Rating Factor 2 Form

See the Attached Rating Factor 2 Form - The submitted region for this project encompasses the entire State of NH. In the Rating Factor 2 form, where data points requested region-wide values, we have supplied statewide values. Where county level values were requested, county data is included. County information for each statewide data point (where available) is available upon request.

B. Narrative Statement of Need

Six factors are key to understanding NH's need for the proposed work. Rapid Growth Resulting in Sprawl and Loss of Open Space: From 1960 to 2010, NH's population more than doubled from about 600,000 to over 1.3 million people. Much of this growth was low-density residential sprawl. This resulted in a loss of open space (approximately 17,500 acres of forestland every year) and for many communities this can represent a loss of the rural landscapes that drive NH's economy and defines sense of place. In response, many communities have implemented regulations that inadvertently further dispersed settlement patterns that are now unsustainable. New England has a rich tapestry of compact and traditional village development patterns and an opportunity to reverse the trend toward sprawl. Developing scenario planning that communicates to municipal leaders the results of policy decisions will be a powerful tool to create an understanding of current lands use policies that no longer allow for these traditional settlement patterns.

Vulnerable Water Supply: Only 64% of NH residents are served by public water systems. The majority of these systems (82%) are small community systems serving fewer than 500 residents. The other 36% rely on private wells with over 4,700 new wells constructed each year. Significantly, just 10% of the most critical lands around public water supply wells and aquifers are protected.

Lack of Alternative Transportation: Traffic on NH highways has increased at nearly double the rate of population growth between 1960 and 2000. Approximately 90% of commuting trips in NH are by automobile (95% in rural counties). Most of the rest is accounted for by intra-city bus transit in a few urban areas including Manchester, Nashua, Concord, and Hanover-Lebanon with comprehensive community routes and service to select locations in Portsmouth, Dover, Durham, Newington, Rochester, and Somersworth (11 out of the State's 234 municipalities). Inter-city bus connections are available between major shopping centers on the seacoast, as well as, Concord, Manchester, Londonderry, Nashua, Portsmouth, and Boston and train service connecting Dover, Durham and Exeter with Portland, Maine and Boston. Otherwise, NH is lacking in comprehensive alternative transportation options and for the vast majority of residents their car is the only option. In 2009, 82% of all work commutes were by single occupant vehicle. In a survey conducted in 2008 by the Southwest RPC, the lowest-income households spent over 30% of their income on transportation, largely the cost of maintaining an automobile and fuel.

Limited Access to Community Centers, Childcare, and Healthcare: Only 36% of the population lives in a state-identified Community Center Area (CCA) or within ½ mile of a CCA. Conversely, about 64% of the population live outside this area, or beyond what is typically accepted as "within walking distance" to a community center. Access to childcare, healthcare and basic services is a critical issue for non-driving residents of the state. A DHHS report estimates that while childcare accounts for a near equal share of state GDP and jobs as travel and tourism, childcare centers operate under a chronic 35% deficit, making this critical component of the state's economy tenuous for working families to identify quality and consistent childcare near employment centers. A study done in the Upper Valley region found that 25% of dialysis patients were arriving at their appointments via ambulance. A statewide effort is underway to coordinate and improve the provision of demand-response transit services and will be incorporated into the NH SCI effort.

Financial Disparity: The six most rural of NH's ten counties, comprising approximately 27% of the state's population have an average per capita income (PCI) of \$40,000, below the state average. Four of the State's counties, representing the northern and western most areas of the state, are below both the state and national average PCI. While only urbanized areas in the SE portion of the state, are represented within the CNT affordability index, much of the rest of the state still contends with high property values (land prices have risen 61% since 1998), lower incomes and long drive times, which make these areas less affordable. According to the US Census American Community Survey, NH is ranked 5th highest nationally in housing costs. In 2007, while the average housing cost as a percentage of income in the US was 37.5, NH's housing cost as a percentage of income was 40.5. NHHFA reported a record number of foreclosures in March of 2011, the highest monthly number recorded (543 foreclosure deeds) - an increase of 21% over foreclosure

deeds recorded in March 2010. While the number of foreclosures has declined since March, at the current pace NH remains on track for yet another record number of foreclosures this year. While the region has fared well during the crisis that has stagnated much the country, what NH is experiencing at the local level is simply a delay in the impact within our region. A significant decline in the number of foreclosures is unlikely until there is improvement in economic conditions including real growth in jobs and a resurgence of residential property values accompanied by an increase in demand.

Independent Local Governments: While New Hampshire is not technically a home-rule state, our tradition is to place a great deal of autonomy at the town level. County level governance is extremely limited and regional planning commissions are advisory only. While this structure has many advantages, including facilitating citizen participation and maintaining direct access to governance (Town Meetings), promoting volunteerism and minimizing bureaucracy, it results in costly inefficiencies in the duplication of municipal services and their administration. This has resulted in significant fragmentation and lack of state level policy guidance when it comes to planning and highlights the need for the development of comprehensive coordinated regional plans for sustainable development as envisioned in this proposal. The fact that we have such strong support from our state and regional partners indicates that we have reached a point of readiness where the urgency of the need to coordinate our planning is felt across regions and sectors. The timing for this project is right.

C. Area of Severe Economic Distress

According to the 2009 American Community Survey, 5.5% of New Hampshire families were below the poverty rate, nearly half the national level, and its median household income was \$60,567, which was 120% of the national average. The seasonally adjusted August 2011 unemployment rate in NH, reported by the NH Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, was 5.3% compared to the national rate of 9.1%.

Factor 3: Soundness of Approach

A1. General Description of Proposed Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

Overview

Final Products - The NH Sustainable Communities Initiative will result in *A Statewide Sustainable Development Policy Framework* that articulates statewide priorities for achieving each of the six Livability Principles and *Nine Regional Plans for Sustainable Development (RPSD)*, one for each of the state's planning regions that will aggregate local and regional issues including those voices generally marginalized, set the framework for implementation, and provide a roadmap to become sustainable by addressing the Livability Principles.

Development Plan Elements - Each RPSD will include the following elements:

Vision Statement that describes the overall vision for Sustainable Development over the next 20 years. The RPCs will follow a consistent process to engage their constituents and conduct a regional visioning process and *A Comprehensive Needs Assessment* of the region's current status. Strengths and needs will be assessed within each of the areas described in the Six Livability Principles. The Needs Assessment will set the stage for the *Goals and Priorities* for the region within each of the six Livability Principles will be developed and further refined. Outcomes: There will be increased participation and decision-making including populations traditionally marginalized in public planning processes; baseline data to measure future progress toward implementation of the vision, goals, and priorities.

A Housing Plan that examines a range of existing and projected housing need by type and tenure that is available to all ranges of family income. NHHFA will work with the RPCs to coordinate the regional Housing Needs Assessments (HNA) with the State HNA align the principles and objectives of the State Consolidated Plan with the HNA of each region to create the RPSD's housing plan component. NHHFA has committed funding to conduct a Housing Preferences and Needs Study, for incorporation into the regional plans, that will combine a quantitative analysis of current demographics, housing utilization and needs with a qualitative analysis of New Hampshire households' current housing conditions and future

housing plans and preferences. *Outcomes:* Reduced median housing costs relative to regional household income; Reduce the proportion of the regional population paying more than 45% of income to housing and transportation expenses; Increase in the supply of affordable housing within ½ mile of high capacity transit services; Reduce the cost burden of housing for the region’s very low-income populations.

A Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choices that addresses the ability of residents to take advantage of housing opportunities throughout the area without discrimination. NHHFA will provide guidance to the RPCs and ensure integration and consistency with the State Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI). *Outcomes:* Reduced median combined housing and transportation costs for low-income populations; Reduced number of census tracts with children enrolled in the school lunch program; Increased supply of affordable housing within proximity to employment and transit centers; Decreased number of census tracts in the planning area with high concentrations of poverty and minority segregation.

Regional Transportation Planning that examines regional networks, expansion of choices and places an emphasis on enhancing public transit, biking, and walking. Transportation is a key component to achieving equity within our communities given NH’s relatively high cost of transportation. Plans will propose implementation strategies to reduce economic barriers and impacts to natural resources, enhance public health opportunities, improved air quality and opportunities for creating location efficient housing, and reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. *Outcomes:* Decrease in per capita VMT and transportation related emissions for the region; Increase in miles and/or percentage of streets served by bike and pedestrian infrastructure; Decrease in per capita vehicle miles traveled in the region; Share and projected change in the proportion of regional trips performed by automobile, transit, walking and bicycling; Reduced disproportionate access of transit alternatives to different populations; Decreased age and improved condition of existing transportation infrastructure; Improved status of ozone and or particulate matter.

Water infrastructure Planning to insure that investments in drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems support the sustainability of the community and are aligned with municipal and regional land use goals and policies. *Outcomes:* Increased total miles of distribution of water infrastructure per population served by decade; number of town centers or other compact development areas served by public water systems.

Environmental Planning that evaluates land use decisions and develops strategies to sound environmental planning and evaluates opportunities to enhance natural resource connectivity for both ecological purposes and human health benefits. A well-connected system of trails, parks and open space provide low to no cost fitness and healthy recreation opportunities for citizens. Additionally, maintaining large unfragmented open space and conservation networks further support our state’s natural heritage and economy that depends upon the state’s pristine environmental resources. *Outcomes:* Brownfield sites identified for redevelopment; Planned change in the number of census tracts containing green space and the number of green space acres preserved as a result of the adoption of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development; Documented change in urbanized land per capita by decade (1990-2010); Number of brownfields in the region per capita, with their current status; Impaired waters in the region; Acres of public recreation and park land per capita.

Economic Development Planning that investigates and proposes strategies that will enhance community vitality and job growth. This includes the intersection of economic development opportunities, employment, cultural events, education, public health and social equity. Economic stability is integrally linked to early childhood development programs, inclusion of minority residents in education and training opportunities, access to safe and fair housing, transportation opportunities to get to work and seek medical care when needed. The Consortium has partnered with HEAL and DHHS, both implementing entities for the *2010 State Plan to Address Health Disparities and Promote Health Equity in NH*, which focuses on achieving economic stability and health equity. The regional economic development plan components will be founded upon an economic analysis that considers the region’s comparative economic advantages, emerging opportunities, and incorporate much of the scenario planning work described below. *Outcomes:* Conduct baseline and

ongoing spatial analysis of health status indicators by census tract; Include representatives from the public health sector in the planning process; Incorporate health considerations into the planning process; Projected number of new job opportunities created as a result of reuse and existing commercial and industrial centers; Availability of subsidized housing within 2 miles of the region's five largest employment centers; Proportion of the regional population isolated from fresh, quality food options, as measured by the proximity of full-services grocery stores for low-income and auto-dependent households; Prevalence of preventable diseases; Disparities in educational attainment by geography/population; Current distributions of employment opportunities by sector; Existing regional economic assets and how they contribute to current conditions.

Comprehensive Climate Change Impacts Assessments that evaluate a range of likely climate change impacts and are used as a basis for defining adaptation actions and strategies. UNH's Carbon Solutions New England will prepare Comprehensive Climate Change Impact Assessments for each of the regional planning commissions that will build upon existing State and New England level data and research such as the Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment (NECIA). Outcomes and Metrics: Reduced threats to the environment, human health, or property associated with expected climate changes.

Energy Efficiency and Green Building Planning will build upon the Regional Planning Commissions existing partnership with OEP and CLF Ventures to support local planning for energy efficiency through the Energy Technical Assistance and Planning (ETAP) program. The RPCs will utilize data collected through ETAP to establish a baseline and inform a regional strategy for energy efficiency and green buildings. NHCDFR will coordinate its findings through its US Department of Energy funded Better Buildings program and best practices, lessons learned, and associated economic development data related to clean energy jobs and energy savings. Outcomes: Baseline data on municipal energy use and building assessments.

Scenario Planning will be used to assess the outcomes and performance goals of various land use, economic development and infrastructure investment scenarios and will form a key component of stakeholder involvement. The planning commissions will utilize data collected through the planning process, regional buildout and economic modeling scenarios, as well as data provided by NH CDFR's Better Building Program to project a variety of regional development outcomes, including the potential impacts of new development and job creation and suggest policies, actions and strategies to respond to them. Outcomes: Baseline and projected changes as a result of plan implementation.

An Implementation Plan that details who will champion the priorities, how they will be accomplished, potential funding sources and timeframes for completion. This will include a section on *Metrics* and the process to monitor progress and make any necessary course adjustments. Outcomes: Projected federal investment aligned with the RPSD; Aligned federal planning and investment resources that mirror the local and regional strategies for achieving sustainable, inclusive communities; Increased integration of local and regional planning with state initiatives that advance sustainable development in line with the Livability Principles.

Advancement of Sustainable Development in the Region

In 2000, NH legislature enacted the *NH Smart Growth Planning Policy* which states, "A coordinated and comprehensive planning effort by state agencies on future development in the state is needed, which will not only improve our economy, but also encourages smart growth by locating development in appropriate growth areas." All NH state agencies must give due consideration to this policy. At the state level, OEP is charged with creating a State Development Plan. At local levels, it is the responsibility of each municipality to create a local Master Plan to guide development and design "ordinances that result in preserving and enhancing the unique quality of life and culture in NH." Municipal Master Plans, Regional Plans and the State's Development Plan are guided by the same framework including a vision and land use section and recommended chapters in transportation, housing, economic development, natural resources, cultural and heritage resources, energy, public infrastructure and implementation.

There is significant opportunity to leverage these existing building blocks and the NH SCI will advance sustainable development by assembling existing resources. NH state agencies and organizations have valuable planning documents, created with solid science and thoughtful discourse and that guide individual missions and objectives, including: NH's Citizen Advisory Committee on Long Range Transportation Plan, NH Climate Action Plan, Wildlife Action Plan, NH Water Resource Primer, NH Smart Growth Principles, NH Livability Principles, NH Consolidated Plan, and the State Recreation Plan. While each of these provides valuable guidance to a set of constituents, there is a lack of continuity and amalgamation of strategies between each. The NH SCI project will conduct a comprehensive assessment of these plans and how each aligns with the Livability Principles.

In 2009, the NH Climate Action Plan (NHCAP) was completed in an effort to, “transition to a new way of living that is based on a far more diversified energy mix, more efficient use of energy, and development of our communities in ways that strengthen neighborhoods and urban centers, preserve rural areas, and retain New Hampshire’s quality of life.” Following this, in an unprecedented demonstration of public, private, non-profit and philanthropic partnerships, the NH Energy & Climate Collaborative was formed to oversee and guide implementation of the NH CAP. The emergence of this model demonstrates readiness and appreciation for creative processes to find solutions to complex issues with attenuated resources.

Traditionally, the RPCs in NH have assembled parts of their Regional Plans based on resource availability and in a fragmented manner and have not had the administrative infrastructure to coordinate efforts with one another. When the RPCs were created almost 50 years ago, regions were significantly less impacted by statewide policies, and were much less dependent on coordinated systems and external resources to create vibrant economies. Economic competitiveness was inspired more by self-sufficiency and was insulated from state, national and international economic instability. As jobs grew further from housing, services became aggregated in one anchor community and travel became more frequent and over longer distances. The impact of one community’s decision-making on others grew in complexity and lessened independence. While the growing influence that municipalities have on each other may be playing out in local interests, the planning processes and frameworks necessary to translate those interests into effective policies have not advanced along with the changing dynamics of regional needs and further necessitate their needed integration with regional and state policies in order to be effective and produce desired results.

While RPCs in NH have a strong history of collaboration, they have yet to integrate their regional comprehensive planning efforts; subsequently plans within each of the planning regions vary in their presentation, data elements, public participation and project prioritization. The NH SCI will advance sustainable development throughout the state by instituting a planning process that facilitates alliances with new partners and recognizes the changing influences that local, regional state policy-making have on vibrant opportunity-rich communities. The NH SCI will create an environment that promotes sustainable development by acknowledging the economic advantages that clear vision and thoughtful coordinated planning can produce. The NH SCI will generate a planning process and create regional plans that are in line with the changing influences on municipal policies.

The NH SCI provides a platform to inform state partners of the priorities of local communities and educate local decision-makers of the limitations of outside resources. The concept of creating a template by which all RPCs can both identify local issues and priorities while coordinating technical expertise such as geocoding data and public outreach will be a unique statewide effort. *The geographic size, population and legal structure of the State of NH makes it predisposed to succeed in HUD’s Sustainable Communities Initiative.*

It is intuitive that regions influence, and are dependent upon, one another within the state, but the opportunity to implement a planning process that demonstrates the interconnections at all policy levels will not only set the stage for efficient and appropriate use of limited resources, but will avail champions within NH to influence further planning ventures that align policies and infrastructure investments. From local

municipalities and unincorporated places of less than 300 people to the statewide development plan, the NH SCI will link and engage a comprehensive understanding of local regional and state visions that will sustain NH's vibrant social and economic structure.

Use of Scenario Planning to Sharpen the Regional Visioning Process and Past Experience

Scenario Planning will be integral to the process we use both to create new visions and RCSPs for our regions and to engage stakeholders in that process. Municipal policies, land use ordinances, and current growth trends, will be used as a framework to develop scenario planning approaches that are stakeholder driven and integrated into the community engagement process. Scenario planning will develop a shared vision for the future by analyzing various forces (e.g., health, transportation, economic, environmental, land use, etc.) that affect growth or, as is the case in northern NH, outmigration. The parameters of the scenario planning process will be coordinated through the Executive Committee so that there is consistency between the nine RPCs, however, each region will conduct its own scenario planning exercises. Region specific scenarios will be developed based on the unique needs, land use and economic development characteristics and stakeholder interest. The scenario planning exercises will be used as a decision support tool to provide valuable information about growth trends, trade-offs and consequences. They will provide the basis for harmonizing future land use and investment decisions that will be imbedded into the RPSDs.

Depending on each region's specific growth expectations, land use patterns, and economic trends, the nine regions will utilize at least one of the following tools for Scenario Planning: New Hampshire Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau's REMI econometric model that is able to simulate the impact to regional economies (county level) of changes in sector employment, transportation infrastructure and development (a minimum of one such exercise will be completed for each region); Leveraging existing GIS systems in each region, regional and State' GIS data sets, and analysis software (CommunityViz Scenario 360 Scenario 3D) to prepare spatial quantitative analyses of land use and development scenarios; Existing and updated travel demand models to evaluate land use and transportation policy scenarios and VMT impacts; and/or Fairpoint's *Connect NNE Economic Scenario Model* tool which provides information on existing economic conditions and estimates potential impact from new development and job creation scenarios. Based in part on scenario outcomes, each region will determine the specific economic development, infrastructure investment and land use policy changes that should be incorporated into its regional plan to ensure a sustainable future.

Past Experience: The Nashua Region has used scenario planning in a number of different contexts, most recently in evaluating the regional transportation system around the City of Nashua. The NRPC looked at several different scenarios based on different growth assumptions. The result of the exercise was that the City endorsed an approach that focused on investment in alternative modes of transportation that equaled the investment in roadway networks. In 2007 Rockingham Planning Commission used its regional travel demand model and a pilot scenario planning process to evaluate the potential impact of smart growth land-use policy on future travel demand in the region. The region's traffic model, which incorporates land use inputs, was run using status quo, moderate and aggressive smart growth development scenarios to test their comparative impact on VMT growth. Four regional planning commission in the I-93 corridor used CommunityViz scenario software to develop alternative build-out scenarios for use by individual communities to develop 'roadmaps' for future land use policy changes.

Incorporation of the Six Livability Principles

The NH Livability Principles will provide the overarching framework for every aspect of our planning process, needs assessment, regional planning documents, and core metrics. NH RSA 9:A describes the elements of the State Development Plan, which are consistent with recommended components of Regional and Local Master Plans. The Transportation and Land Use Roundtable, in development of the NH Livability Principles, has identified common plan elements cross referenced to the Livability Principles (*see*

the Comparison Matrix in the Appendix). In continuance of this effort, existing statewide plans will be framed within each of the Livability Principles and will address the following:

1. *Transportation Choices*: Current and proposed transportation modes (# of options, distance traveled, alternative modes, etc.); Road congestion; Water and air pollution; Vehicle emissions.
2. *Equitable, Affordable Housing*: Affirmatively further fair and affordable housing through; Location, density, scale and type of housing; Variety of housing options; Energy-efficiency of housing options.
3. *Economic Competitiveness*: Current and projected economic strengths and weaknesses; Policies and actions needed to support the state's economic goals; Integrated childcare, education, and workforce training.
4. *Support for Existing Communities*: Natural resources (land protection, open space, farm land, wildlife habitat, water, clean aquifer recharge areas); Natural hazards including climate change and adaptation; Recreation; Commercial activity; Land use patterns, resources and infrastructure.
5. *Coordinated Policies and Leverage Investment*: Growth management; Energy-efficient buildings; Renewable and low CO2 emissions; Greenhouse gas emissions.
6. *Valuing of Communities and Neighborhoods*: Cultural and historic resources; Community identity; Siting of municipal and public buildings and services; Community engagement; and, Land-use patterns.

Response to Needs Demonstrated Under Rating Factor 2

The first phase of the project will collect and set baseline data that will build upon the data collected in Rating Factor 2. The TA Subcommittees will evaluate the Rating Factor 2 data as well as additional data related to housing needs, environmental quality, transportation access, economic development, equity, etc. as identified in specific State and Regional Plans such as the NH Housing Needs Assessment and Impediments to Fair Housing, the NH Climate Action Plan, and Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies, just to name a few. The combined data review and analysis integrated with the Six Livability Principles will help guide the development of an overall Sustainability Policy for the project. In the second phase, the regions will use the data to develop the regional plans and set implementation strategies to address the identified needs. In the third phase, The NH SCI will institutionalize the mechanisms for monitoring progress over the term of the 20-year planning horizon.

Leverage of Critical Regional Economic Assets to Advance Sustainability

NH has a number of State, Regional and Local economic development organizations working with, and sometimes competing for, scarce resources. All of these organizations are committed to helping the State, their region or their locale achieve long-term sustainable economic prosperity. It is the intent of the SCI to bring these organizations together so that State, Regional and Local plans are working in concert with each other as each plays an important role in advancing the economic direction of this region. The NH SCI will enable the State to define roles and identify resources that will produce livable wage jobs.

Each region will strive to preserve and enhance existing community assets while encouraging economic development and job creation by: identifying existing resources and assets that contribute to the vibrant fabric of the region; determining strategies for maintaining, supporting and enhancing these resources in a manner consistent with the 6 Livability Principles; prioritizing projects that will build on existing infrastructures; and, using our existing economic assets as leverage for funding implementation of projects and strategies. *See Rating Factor 4 for a description of leverage and integration opportunities.*

Build Inclusive Communities and Advance Access to Economic Opportunity for All

While New Hampshire's overall population is relatively homogenous, there are regional disparities and opportunities to promote more inclusive communities and enhance economic opportunities. The ultimate solutions will vary between each of the nine regions dependent on the specific demographic and economic characteristics. For example, the State's minority populations are clustered within southeastern communities and the northern most tier of the state faces the greatest economic challenges.

Discrimination and local land use regulatory controls are the first two cited obstacles to fair housing choice identified within the *2010 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in New Hampshire*. NH's Regional Planning Commissions, a recognized intermediary between State efforts and local governments, are uniquely poised to lead planning effort through the RPSD to promote alternative land use development practices that will alleviate impediments to fair housing. NH Housing will guide the RPCs in analyzing regional analyses of fair housing impediments and to understand the various mechanisms they may employ to reduce local regulatory barriers to affordable housing.

The NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), along with its partner the Family Assistance Advisory Council, will advise the Sustainability Policy Committee and the Regional Advisory Committees based upon their expertise in facilitating development of regionally based health and social service delivery systems including coordinated transportation networks and supporting housing development. DHHS will also look to assist in transforming other services such as childcare sustainability, which is vital to economic opportunities for the State's lowest-income populations. DHHS will work with the RPCs to ensure the needs of all citizens, including underserved and marginalized populations, are carefully considered in the development of NH's community infrastructure.

See also *the discussion below on Engagement Activities and Populations That Face Social, Economic and Health Disparities* relative to HEAL's promotion of public health through advancement of economic and social opportunity.

A2. Process to Develop a Proposed Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

The NH SCI will provide a planning structure, tools and supports that increase our state's ability to: engage communities; integrate planning across sectors; identify, share and replicate successful projects; and, implement high quality, cohesive sustainable development practices. Together these practices will enable large communities and small villages throughout the state to achieve economic vitality while safeguarding natural resources, character and rural landscapes that resonates with individuals and defines NH's values.

The project will commence the process of working collaboratively to integrate planning and inform the RPSD, with a well-publicized kick-off conference to engage all Consortium members and review the planning process and present the Regional Planning Process Policy Framework and Template developed by the TLU Roundtable. Using the NH Livability Principles the Sustainability Policy Committee will work with the Project Manager to define a set of Sustainability Policies that will guide the planning process amongst all nine regional planning commissions in a coordinated fashion. This will acknowledge that while each region is aptly utilizing a regional planning approach, there are interrelationships between each regional planning commission in the state given their proximity and natural connections be it transportation corridors or natural features that transcend boundaries. Additionally, at the project's conclusion the unified set of sustainability policies will be presented to the Governor's office for endorsement by the State Government.

Community Engagement

The Carsey Institute will serve as the convener of the Equity and Engagement Technical Advisory Subcommittee. In light of a primary focus on engaging underserved and underrepresented populations in regional planning, the Carsey Institute will work closely with UNH Cooperative Extension to create a series of local and regional public dialogues that will give a total of 400-500 participants an opportunity to express their views on issues related to community, growth strategies and opportunities to build community centers/growth nodes, long-range planning, and use the new messages and dialogue created through the Action Media training to ensure when RPC staff discuss "sustainability" and "livability" it resonates with all members of the public and they can relate their needs to the principles of sustainable development. Specifically, the Carsey Institute and NH Listens will partner with UNH Cooperative Extension to develop a three-tiered Community Engagement Framework, implemented in chronological order as follows:

Communities of Interest (COI). In each region, the RPC along with the Equity Team will identify and engage specific interest groups made up of underserved populations. This will include but not be limited to

the NH Minority Health Coalition, the Latin American Center (Manchester), NH ABLE (a self-advocacy group for people with disabilities), the Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Program (Concord) and International Institute of NH (Manchester), NH Legal Assistance (representing welfare rights organizations), resident-owned communities (ROC's), NH's six community action programs, youth advocacy organizations across the state, and senior citizen centers. RPCs will conduct up to three dialogue events in each of the nine regions with representatives from these constituencies (for a total of 20-25 COI focus groups). Because of their historical marginalization from civic initiatives, RPCs will work in neighborhoods and settings that are familiar and design dialogue processes that allow for the safe, confidential expression of views. Our focus in these dialogues will be on how natural and built environments affect the social, economic, cultural, and political lives of these populations.

Communities of Place (COP). The Executive Committee will identify 12 communities across NH, representing geographic and demographic diversity, where public conversations will be conducted on the question, *“How can the places we live, work, and learn accommodate our needs long-term in a meaningful way for ALL our residents?”* Grounded in the NH Livability Principles and guided by NH Listens’ core commitments to inclusive, civil, and safe dialogue, these community-based, facilitated dialogues will draw on the results of the Community of Interest focus groups, create expanded opportunities for wider participation from both the “usual suspects” and underserved, underrepresented populations, and emphasize the particular nature of the place in which the conversations are occurring. The Regional Advisory Committees will support the participation of members of the COI focus groups (above) through provision of transportation, child care, and other services necessary to offset financial and personal costs.

Regional Forums (RF). The third stage of the Community Engagement Framework will entail four regional public forums that will encompass groups of two or three regional planning regions. Participants in the Regional Forums will be drawn from the COI and COP dialogues, and will also be open to other residents in these areas. The purposes of the RF's will be to a) aggregate the recommendations that emerge from the COI and COP dialogues, b) modify and expand those recommendations to reflect regional interests, and c) recruit members of Regional Equity Teams for each of the nine RPC's. The Regional Equity Teams will include members of underserved, underrepresented populations, as well as other members of the public and professional planning community. Each Team will develop priorities and principles relevant to the particular region they represent and continue to meet over the course of this project to assure the core recommendations and principles generated by the Community Engagement Framework are preserved.

In addition, the nine Regional Planning Commissions, in conjunction with the Carsey Institute's NH Listens engagement efforts, utilizing the training and tools created by ActionMedia, will conduct following additional outreach and engagement efforts, as needed, to ensure a broad cross section of participation:

- Neighborhood Conversations recognize that many people are uncomfortable participating in public meetings and establish a mechanism to engage those individuals at the more casual neighborhood locations (i.e. local diners and coffee shops, PTA group meetings, local transfer stations, etc.);
- Regional Workshops: To build successful participatory workshops, aimed at maximizing community participation and engaging a diverse audience, the Regional Advisory Committees will work in collaboration with NH Listens to develop a series of workshops to be held at various locations around each region to encourage meaningful dialogue between community members and planners; and
- Regional Equity Team Events: With the help of the Equity and Engagement Technical Advisory Subcommittee, each RPC will engage underserved and traditionally marginalized populations to serve on a Regional Equity Team, part of the overall Regional Advisory Committee. Each will work on specific equity planning issues through workshops and charrettes held at locations selected to maximize participation of underserved populations such as local manufactured housing park meetings, centers for non-English speaking residents, and senior centers, just to name a few. Regional Equity Teams will identify targeted audiences so to best match the variations in population diversity across the state.

Assessment of Existing Conditions and Projected Trends

The Technical Advisory (TA) Subcommittees, made up of NH's experts on transportation, housing, water, economic development, natural resources and other infrastructure, will use the NH Livability Principles as a framework for discussing and compiling the conditions and trends identified in existing statewide plans such as the Long Range Transportation Plan, Water Primer, NH Climate Action Plan, Consolidated Plan for Housing and Wildlife Action plans. For example, NHHFA has committed an in-kind match for Daniel Smith, Director of Housing Research, to participate in the Housing Choices TA Subcommittee, provide data analysis, and RFP development and consultant management to prepare the Housing Preferences and Needs Survey that will ultimately be integrated into the individual regional plans.

Each region will begin with these assessments and framework and distill them into a regional context to create a customized assessment of existing conditions and set a baseline for visioning and planning efforts. Consortium Partners with expertise in each subject area will assist the regions by providing TA and support. For example our research partner, UNH, will conduct Climate Change Impact Assessments. They will begin with the Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment (NECIA) that provides a detailed analysis of the impacts of future climate change and variability over the 21st century. The Assessment projects that warmer temperatures over the next few decades will be accompanied by an increase in extreme precipitation events, an increase in runoff in the winter and early spring, more frequent summertime drought, lower summer stream flows, a decrease of snowcover, sea-level rise, and coastal flooding and inundation. UNH will combine the results from NECIA, with NH-specific climate impact assessments that are currently underway. These, in turn, will serve as the basis for completing regional climate impact assessments.

Data to be used in Developing Regional Vision

The collection, review and analysis of data will play a critical role in guiding our decisions at both the regional and state levels. In Phase 1 of the project, the TA Subcommittees will complete an assessment of existing conditions and trends. The assessments will include a review of all Factor 2 data along with other data that has already been collected by our partners. Also during Phase 1, the Sustainability Policy Committee will establish outcome indicators that will be tracked throughout the state, which will be outlined in the Sustainable Regional Planning Framework. In Phase 2, a review of regional conditions, existing plans and trends will be completed to refine the Sustainable Regional Planning Framework into a specific visioning process that guides implementation strategies and help to prioritize projects within each region. The data collected, which will include items such as Vehicle Miles Traveled, land preserved, transportation choices, proximity to affordable housing, and State multi-modal transportation investments, will be included in our State's Scorecard managed by the NH Energy & Climate Collaborative (*see Establish and Track Metrics*).

Engagement Activities and Populations That Face Social, Economic and Health Disparities

Through the Community Engagement Activities outlined above, the Carsey Institute will work with the Consortium's Equity and Engagement Subcommittee to identify organizations and members of the public in each region who represent traditionally marginalized populations and help to develop appropriate meetings and listening sessions to best engage them and their peers. This may include taking our communications messaging and dialogue, created in collaboration with Action Media our communication contractor, and attending meetings at senior centers, minority coalition meetings, and the like. The RPCs will ensure that there is access to the dialogue, and engagement through that dialogue.

The NH SCI project will develop Regional Equity Teams in each region, a subcommittee of the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC), whose membership is comprised of traditionally underserved populations. The Regional Equity Team's input in the nine regional plans is a critical component of the planning process and ensuring a broad spectrum of local participation and inclusion during the planning process.

Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) will play an active role to address health disparities across the state through the lens of promoting economic and social opportunity. HEAL will serve on the Sustainability

Policy Committee, a TA Subcommittee, and as an advisor to the RPC's and their RACs, to identify strategies and resources to improve public health outcomes, provide access to HEAL's coalitions for input on the regional planning process, leverage Foundation for Healthy Communities outreach to low-income persons, residents of public housing, minorities, limited English and on-English speaking persons and persons with disabilities. In addition to providing connections and assistance with outreach to underserved and marginalized populations, HEAL will work with the SCI consortium to coordinate and align the *State Plan to Address Health Disparities and Promote Health Equity in New Hampshire*. Particularly, alignment between the two efforts should occur within HEAL's efforts to implement the Economic Stability objectives. Points of alignment with their Economic Stability objectives within the *State Plan to Address Health Disparities and Promote Health Equity in New Hampshire*:

- Assist minority residents in securing housing in safe and accessible neighborhoods.
- Encourage employers to promote resources, recruitment and opportunities for training and retention of racial and ethnic minorities, including staff and leadership positions.
- Expand transportation options and improve use of existing options to connect individuals to transportation needed for health visits, including chronic care treatment.

Strategy to Address Barriers and Incorporate Existing Plans

Identifying and Overcoming Barriers - One of the steps in the visioning and planning process to be used by each region will be to identify existing and potential barriers to ensuring sustainable communities and to articulate the strategies the regions will use to mitigate or overcome each barrier. Anticipated barriers include NH's strong tradition of individual property rights and resultant resistance to planning and zoning; and a currently strained State budget that will limit State Agencies capacity to conduct future planning efforts. Key to overcoming these barriers will first be the detailed community engagement and communication strategy identified above. NH has a proven track record of supporting planning initiatives that have a significant level of public involvement. Second, by establishing a Consortium of partners, built upon the premise of collaboration and integration of planning efforts, the burden will be lessened upon state agencies, enhancing their internal capacity as well as that of the RPCs.

During the planning process the Regional Advisory Committee will identify any additional common barriers and strategies and bring these to the Sustainability Policy Committee. The Policy Committee (whose members include decision-makers from the DOT, DES, OEP, etc.) will work together to identify potential statewide strategies for reducing and/or eliminating the barriers. These strategies will then also be incorporated into the final Statewide Sustainable Development Policy Framework.

Alignment with Existing Plans-The Sustainability Policy Committee will ensure that the RPSDs and the Statewide Sustainable Development Policy Framework are aligned with one another and with existing state plans. Refer to *Rating Factor 4* for a full description of the identified opportunities to integrate existing planning efforts within the regions and at the state level.

Strategy for Residential and Small Business Displacement

As a state, we are not planning large-scale infrastructure investments, demolition or conversion of low to moderate income dwellings and there is no threat of large scale displacement of residents and small businesses. NH's and our regions culture is to protect low to moderate-income housing. NH deals with loss of jobs or business displacement with a comprehensive program of workforce training, housing and financial help to citizens. DRED has an active job retention and business recruitment program.

Achieving Regional Consensus in Support of the Plan

We believe that the key to getting "buy-in" is to engage the stakeholders in the planning and decision-making process in a meaningful way. The structure we have established brings residents, policy-makers, planners and "implementers" together in every region in the state. The Regional visioning and planning sessions will include such local partners as housing coalitions, transit providers, the local arts community,

Chambers of Commerce, etc. As noted earlier, 70 municipalities and counties representing nearly 80% of the NH's population have committed in writing to participating in the planning process. The committee structure brings the state and local decision-makers together right from the very beginning. Our work with local coalitions, NH Listens, and ActionMedia, and our very intentional outreach and engagement strategies will facilitate strong two-way communications with traditionally underrepresented populations and the public at large. Finally, our clear decision-making structures at both the regional and committee levels will help us move from “talking” to decisions and action.

Engagement of Other Public Agencies

The SCI Consortium includes participation from 67 local municipalities, 3 counties, 9 regional planning commissions, 9 state agencies, 9 non-profit organizations and an academic institution. For a full description of each of the partners and their roles refer to the *Appendix* and the *Rating Factor 1 Narrative and Form*.

Implementation of the Vision

Each plan will have an implementation section that identifies the steps the region will take to advance its priorities, target completion dates for each project, a champion for each project, and an outline of the funding sources available to support each project. The fact that local, regional and state plans will all be aligned with one another means that capital investments will also be aligned. Once the regional plans are in place, we will begin the process of incorporating the sustainability principles into the local master plans. The Policy Committee will then monitor regional and state progress as they implement their sustainability plans. To the end that NHHFA's 2011 HUD Community Challenge Grant is funded, the proposed NH Community Planning Grant Program will link municipalities with the financial and technical resources to implement the RPSD into the local regulatory framework.

Establish and Track Metrics

Using the HUD Logic Model, the Executive Committee will establish metrics that gauge and guide the progress of plan implementation. This will include evaluation of: the NH SCI planning process; the resulting RPSDs; levels of community engagement; and, the extent to which the project increases the capacity of the Consortium partners. Data for the planning process evaluation will be collected using methods such as observation of NH SCI meetings, review of documents produced, number of participants at Regional Advisory meetings, number of new and/or traditionally marginalized partners engaged in the planning process, and better alignment of State and Regional programs and plans.

In Phase 1, The Executive Committee will work closely with HUD, the Transportation Land Use Roundtable and Sustainability Policy to identify the outcomes and indicators we will use to monitor our progress over time beginning with baseline data collection that will occur during the three-year planning period (i.e. HUD Logic Model); short-term (1-3 year) planning process measures; mid-term (3-5 year) benchmarks of performance; and long term (5-20 year) measures of implementation effects. We propose several different sets of measures be considered for inclusion in the evaluation: 1) a set of indicators to measure the eight outcomes identified by HUD (NOFA Section V.A.5.a); 2) a set of indicators selected from those listed in the NOFA, Rating Factor 2 list; and 3) a set of existing indicators and other data that the Executive Committee and Sustainability Policy Committee recommends as a result of our research experience in New England and across the country and our knowledge of the literature in this area.

The RPCs and other partners in the Consortium will collect indicator data. That indicator data will be compiled annually as part of our State's Progress Scorecard being developed by the NH Energy & Climate Collaborative. Although established as a tool to rate progress toward implementation of our State's Climate Action Plan, the transportation, land use, agriculture, and adaptation goals in the Climate Action Plan align with many of the intended outcomes for sustainable communities. The Collaborative has approached the RPCs to ensure the sustainable communities indicators are incorporated into the Scorecard so that there is one Tracking and Scoring tool and report for the State. There is dedicated staff for the Collaborative who

will analyze and report on the data collected and progress, not just toward implementation of the Climate Action Plan, but also toward implementation of our sustainable communities planning efforts, over time.

A3. Governance and Management

Decision-Making Structure and Inclusion Strategies *(See Organizational Chart in Appendix)*

Decision Making Process:

1. Technical Advisory Subcommittees review and evaluate existing conditions and trends and recommend to Sustainability Policy Committee an overall framework for the regional planning process.
2. Sustainability Policy Committee establishes overall sustainable development policies and priorities.
3. Regional Advisory Committees customize process template and policy framework to regional context.
4. Regional Advisory Committees complete visioning and planning processes and draft all regional plan components including implementation strategies and prioritized projects.
5. The Program Manager will review each Regional Plan for consistency with the statewide policies and priorities established by the Policy Committee in Phase 1.
6. The Program Manager will advise the Regional Advisory Committees of any Plan inconsistencies.
7. Each RPC formally votes to approve the region's plan using the voting procedures already in place in their current by-laws.
8. The Program Manager drafts a Statewide Sustainability Framework Policy Consensus Plan.
9. The 9 RPCs review and approve the Statewide Sustainability Framework Policy Consensus Plan.
10. Any disputes regarding the draft Consensus Plan are resolved by the Policy Committee.
11. Any disputes regarding administration or grant resources are resolved by the Executive Committee.

Inclusion Strategies: Engaging diverse and traditionally underrepresented populations in a planning process and ensuring that their voices are heard and directly influence the resulting plans can be extremely challenging. To ensure success, we have built a number of mechanisms into the structure of the initiative. The first charge of the *Equity and Engagement Subcommittee* is to develop a suite of tools to engage local and regional stakeholders, including traditionally marginalized communities such as low-income, minority and economically disadvantaged communities. The Consortium includes organizations with extensive expertise in designing processes that engage traditionally underrepresented populations, including: The Carsey Institute, NHHFA, Community Loan Fund, DHHS and HEAL. Many of our statewide partners have existing grassroots coalitions to which they will link us for formal and informal input into the planning process. They will then work with RPC staff to customize the tools for each region in the state depending on the communities present within the region. Each regional planning process will include a *Regional Equity Team* that is comprised of members of traditionally marginalized populations. The Regional Team's input into the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development is critical. We will employ a *Common Process for Visioning Sessions* that establishes a template for the regional visioning sessions based on best practices in community engagement and efficient and effective planning based on experience and the Communications Training with Action Media.

A consistent *Messaging and Communications Plan* will be developed by ActionMedia to create a menu of sustainability messaging and communications tools for use across the state. They will provide additional *Training and Support* as the best-laid plans often fall flat because those who responsible for their implementation lack needed skills and/or because they run into roadblocks and obstacles along the way. To address these issues, we will train every RPC leader in how to implement the community engagement strategies. In addition, Consortium members will be available throughout the planning process to provide regions with TA and support in problem-solving when barriers arise. Further, Action Media will provide *Direct Communications Consultation* to all participants, both those employed by partner organizations and RPC's, and grassroots citizen activists, for telephone and email consultations. These consultations may include direct coaching, discussion of new opportunities or challenges as they arise, and review and recommended edits of any draft materials.

Role of Each Consortium Member

The role of each Consortium member is delineated in the Rating Factor 1 Form and Appendix – Factor 1A.

Partner Commitment and Strategy for Incorporating New Partners

Each partner's commitment is described in *Factor 1: Section A* and *Exhibit Three (Appendix and Letters of Commitment)*. During Phase 1, the Executive Committee will establish criteria for adding and funding any new partners. The Committee will also have final decision-making authority during the initiative regarding the addition of new partners. To date we have successfully secured the support and commitment of a broad cross-section of partners. But our work in this area is not yet complete. In particular we will actively seek out the support and involvement of the business community including the Business and Industry Association, Chambers of Commerce and Homebuilders Association and the NH Small Business Development Center; the NH Water Works Association; NH Transit Association; and NH Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Safety.

As we embark on our communications and outreach process led by the Carsey Institute we will seek additional participation from a suite of additional organizations as identified above under "Community Engagement" to identify and engage specific interest groups made up primarily of underserved populations.

Budget Resources to Deepen the Diversity of Participation

The NH SCI Consortium through a mix of grant and in-kind contributions has proposed efforts that equate to \$357,056 or 11% of the total HUD Grant Request to deepen the diversity of participation within the planning process. Details of these resources are provided in the *Attached Rating Factor 3C Budget Narrative*. In summary, these activities include:

- Action Media – Communications Strategy Development: \$43,500
- UNH Carsey Institute and NH Listens – Public Engagement and Listening Sessions: \$55,131
- Healthy Eating Active Living – Integration of Equity and Public Health Planning: \$46,431
- Equity and Outreach Technical Advisory Committee – In-kind Partner Contributions: \$32,895
- Department of Health and Human Services – Assistance to RPCs to promote Equity: \$2,854
- RPC Staff Time – Time devoted to Equity, Communications, Outreach, Engagement: \$135,000
- Regional Equity Teams – Committed In-Kind Contribution of Community Participation: \$41,245

Data Management and Communications Plan

UNH Complex Systems and the Executive Committee will coordinate our data collection efforts. Some data will be gathered from existing reports and data sets within the NH GRANIT System at UNH, our State's GIS Clearinghouse and within our partner's databases. Some regionally specific data will be collected by the RPCs, as necessary. NH GRANIT will serve as the Consortium's data advisor, sharing core data from the state archives available to the SCI and ensure that we establish and implement appropriate standards as we compile the SCI database.

The Executive Committee and the members of the TA Subcommittees, who provide direct assistance to individual regions, will play critical roles in ensuring that data is shared among our partners. Each regional planning agency will have the ability to add and edit geographic information systems (GIS) data as suggested by the Executive Committee and TA Subcommittees in conjunction with UNH Complex Systems. RPC's play a major role in data creation and analysis in the state and this project will improve collaboration among agencies in integrating and presenting geospatial information and that collaborative data sharing and integration can be duplicated for future planning projects.

Ensuring Implementation of the RPSD

Three elements that will help ensure that the plans lead to action: 1. The implementation sections of each plan will include specific strategies, actions, timeframes, funding sources and implementation schedules; 2. Endorsement of the plan by the NH Council on Resources and Development (CORD), predominantly

comprised of NH SCI state agency partners, will help to ensure that state agencies institutionalize the plan and that sources of funding align with the plan; 3. The plan will be presented to the Governor and OEP for State Government endorsement and inclusion within the State Development Plan.

A4. Project Implementation Schedule

Timeline, Milestones, and Metrics – January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014

The NHSCI Consortium proposes a three-phase process to developing the RPSD and statewide vision plan. *See the detailed project timeline included within the Appendix as well as the metric based Rating Factor 5 Form.*

Phase 1 – Assess Existing Trends, Establish Policy Framework and Process Template: Design a planning process template to be used in each region; identify metrics and evaluation measures; complete an assessment of our current existing status on each of the NH Livability Principles; create Sustainable Development policies based on the Livability Principles; and develop communication and community engagement tools. In Phase 1, we will incorporate the HEAL Goals, Priorities and Recommended Interventions into the Regional Plan Template that will be used by each region in the planning process, as well as, NHHFA will commence the process of developing the statewide Housing Preferences and Needs Study. *Outcomes and Metrics:* Persons in decision making roles traditionally marginalized in the public planning process – measured as the number of persons and number of meetings or events attended; Number of Nontraditional representatives incorporated into the various committees.

Phase 2 – Conduct Regional Visioning and Develop Regional Plans for Sustainable Development: Conduct visioning and planning exercises in each of the nine regions. Each region will customize the common planning process to reflect the particular needs of the region and draft RPSDs that: reflect the Sustainable Development Policies; address the goals, objectives and recommended interventions of the HEAL action plan; identify implementation strategies particular to the region; prioritize projects; and, incorporate the use of common metrics. *Outcomes and Metrics:* Creation of shared elements in regional transportation, housing, water, and air quality plans tied to local comprehensive land use and capital investment plans. *See also the Outcomes associated with each of the plan components identified above in Section A1 of this Rating Factor.*

Phase 3 –Consolidate Implementation Priorities, Develop Statewide Sustainability Policy Framework: Formally approve each of the RPSDs; combine the plans into a Statewide Sustainable Development Vision Plan; and establish the mechanisms needed to provide regions with on-going technical assistance (TA) including support in monitoring and using metrics to inform and guide their work. *Outcomes and Metrics:* Number of measures amended or added to state statutes to support the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development – measured as the number of statutes amended or newly established and # of bills passed.

Conduct Implementation Pilots: SNHPC, following completion of its RPSD, will conduct two plan implementation pilots as demonstration projects the RPC's ultimate implementation process.

Advance Regional Transportation Planning: SNHPC will implement a program for the development of complete streets in the SNHPC communities. The 2011 Livable Walkable Toolkit, currently being developed, will include Policy Recommendations for implementing complete streets principles. This toolkit will be used to assist one to two communities in the Southern New Hampshire Region in creating ordinances, policies and education. These communities will be used as a model for the rest of the State to serve as a guide and reference to other communities in the use of the toolkit and the implementation of complete streets.

Support energy efficiency and green building plans: The communities in the SNHPC region are currently participating in the Energy Efficiency Technical Assistance (ETAP) Program from NH OEP. Energy use is being tracked with an inventory tool developed by Peregrine Energy Group (PEG). The data that is being collected and tracked through this program will be used to map regional municipal energy use. These maps will be used to identify short, medium and long-term energy reduction targets and appropriate strategies for

achieving these targets. The maps can also be used by the communities in the region to see how they compare to other communities and to make their own energy reduction goals in their energy master plans.

Additional Metrics to be tracked throughout all phases of the planning process include: Number of public events held; committee and subcommittee meetings held; and participants at each meeting.

Mechanisms to Advance Economic Opportunity

All nine RPCs will establish, through a consistent planning framework, strategies to reduce barriers to fair housing opportunities, promote the health and well-being of all citizens, and integrate the needs of the state's traditionally marginalized populations through planning for transportation and economic development. It is the intention that through the careful selection of Consortium members that are currently active in promoting the social, economic and physical well-being of the state's lowest-income, minority, and rural populations, and the formulation of a community engagement process that will ensure maximum participation in the planning process, each region will be able to effectively identify the greatest opportunities to promote change. As detailed above, each of the RPCs will ultimately take a separate approach toward the advancement of economic opportunities to meet their specific findings of need.

B. Category 2 Applications - Not Applicable

C. Budget Proposal - See attached HUD 424 Budget Form and the Budget Narrative

D. HUD's Departmental Policy Priorities

Increase Skills and Technical Expertise of Partner Organizations

We propose numerous opportunities to build capacity across the consortium partnership and increase the state and community members' knowledge and skills:

- Sustainability Summit. We will begin the process with a "Sustainability Summit" in which each partner will contribute their expertise on the subject matter and begin to define how we might integrate sustainability measures and policies and result in a consensus-based vision for sustainability in NH. Outputs: 100 people will participate in the Summit.
- Communications Training & Unifying Messaging and Vision. At the onset of the project, Action Media, Ltd. will lead the Regional Planning Commissions through a learning process that develops a 'script' and translates industry terminology. The Planning Commissions will learn how to better engage people by using terms, emotions, and other techniques to interact with a more diverse public. Outputs: Participation of 2-3 staff members/RPC @ 9 RPCs = 23 people.
- Leadership Communications Workshop. In a day-long meeting with representative members of the Executive Committee, Sustainability Policy Committee, and the Equity and Engagement Technical Advisory Subcommittee, ActionMedia will provide a communications training to frame the issues based upon national research and direct experience in New Hampshire, and lead a discussion of the application of this approach to the specific project objectives. The group will develop a foundational story for this project, specific messages, and begin outlining communication strategy specifying actions to be taken as a result of communications, target audiences and messages required for those specific audiences. Outputs: A minimum of 30 people will participate in the workshop.
- Webinar Trainings. Action Media will conduct on-line presentations of the Interim Report, and group discussion of the Interim Report with members of key committees, allied organizations, and staff of all nine RPC's. They will conduct webinars three times, clustering the RPC's in groups of three, to allow for detailed group discussion of specific local considerations in each region, and how these might add to or amend the recommendations. Following these webinars, Action Media will provide a revised Report with modifications and/or addenda as appropriate. Outputs: 3 webinars, participation of a minimum of 75 people will participate in the webinars, and produce final report.
- Communications development. Working with the Executive Committee, the Regional Advisory Committees and the Equity and Engagement Technical Advisory Subcommittee, Action Media will

identify key media to be employed such as websites, publications, news releases, direct mail, and audio and video pieces. Action Media will develop content for these media and manage their production, in close consultation with identified members of project leadership. *Outputs:* will be determined following the development of the final communications strategy to ensure maximum impact.

- **Coaching and Support.** The communications training and workshops will serve as the basis for on-going coaching and support including telephone discussion of specific opportunities or problems, direct support on website content, and review of written materials including recommended edits and revisions. *Outputs:* 9 regions @2-3 people/region = 23 people will receive coaching and support.
- **Grass-roots implementation.** As these materials are produced, Action Media will conduct trainings in each of the nine regions, with citizen representatives, on the use of these materials for mobilizing identified populations to participate directly and on an on-going basis in regional planning. This is a key training, because it will provide citizen messengers with an opportunity to practice their communication skills, and will establish a basis for direct consultation as they proceed to do this work. *Outputs:* 9 regions @ 8-10 people/region = 80 people.

Share Knowledge Among Partners

NH SCI Committee Structure Each of our partner organizations has done a great deal of thoughtful planning. Most, if not all, have done some cross-agency/cross-sector planning. But this is the first time we have ever brought all of the players together and provided them with the mechanisms they need to do truly place-based rather than “silo-end” planning. *The committee structure will significantly increase the state’s ability to share information and integrate work across sectors.* The TA Subcommittees will drive the sharing of information through regular meetings of the subcommittees and through the TA they provide to the Regional Advisory Committees and the Sustainability Policy Committee. Each partner brings unique expertise. The process we have proposed will bring the best ideas to the table. The Committee will identify examples from around the state of successful models in transportation, land use, environment, economic development, etc., and discuss how they can be replicated across the state. *Outputs:* The 9 RPC director’s will meet monthly as the *Executive Committee*, 15 leaders will attend quarterly *Sustainability Policy Committee* meetings whose sole purpose is to integrate sustainability policies regarding transportation, environmental, land use, economic development, housing, etc. in relation to statewide plan components and the livability principles; further 45 technical experts will also meet on a quarterly basis as part of the 7 *TA Subcommittees*.

Regional Planning Meetings: In addition to communicating and coordinating on the statewide level, we also will be leveraging and coordinating at the regional and local levels. The composition of the Regional Advisory Committees and the structure of the final regional plans will enable local and regional planners, regional coalitions and representatives from transportation, housing, economic development, housing and other sectors to come together in a systematic fashion rather than the current more piece-meal approach. *Outputs:* An estimated 60 cities and towns; 3 counties; and, hundreds of community stakeholders across the state will participate in regional planning meetings across each region for a period of 30 months during Phase 1 and 2 of the project and additional final meetings in Phase 3 (*Project Timeline included in the Appendix*).

Expand Cross-Cutting Policy Knowledge

Outcome Data to be Collected: We have identified some of the outcome data we will collect. During Phase 1 of the project the TLU Roundtable in collaboration with the NHSCI Consortium will finalize the Sustainable Planning Framework that will include the identification of additional data that we will collect and monitor over time. The core data we will track include:

Outcome Data – Changes in....

- Housing/Rental cost
- Median Household Incomes
- Workforce Housing Availability
- Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) /emissions
- Alternative Transportation infrastructure/Utilization - capital projects.
- Changes in Population/Housing relative to: Community Centers/Walkability; Alternative

- Open Space Available (Also per-capita)
- Healthcare and public services accessibility
- Healthcare uptake & Incidence rates
- Changes in employment by sector
- Protection of water resources
- transportation options; Basic services (Food/Essentials Accessibility); and, Employment
- Land Consumption per capita
- Changes in In-fill development.

Regional & Statewide Collaborative efforts (Reduction in local fragmentation)

- Number of Sustainability Policy Committee and TA Subcommittee meetings
- Completion of regional plan templates
- Evaluation of document contents
- Regional coordination improvements
- Results of public outreach - knowledge of sustainable practices

Input data will be collected by RPC's at the regional level using defined data standards developed by the Executive Committee in collaboration with the TA Subcommittees and the data advisor for UNH Complex Systems. *Sources* for this data include U.S, Census, the UNH GRANIT statewide GIS clearinghouse, state agencies and regional and local datasets.

Due to the extended geography of the submitted region (State of NH) all data outcomes will be aggregate data to the Census Block at the smallest geography. Some data, produced from land use/land cover modeling, may represent differing areas than Census Blocks, but will not be at household or parcel levels. Some smaller geographies will be used as inputs in the analysis, including conservation lands, employment centers, major attractions, road segments, some parcels and building points. Some scenario outcome data will be collected only at the regional, county and state levels.

Dissemination Plan: Data sets and spatial data layers will be uploaded to each RPCs website and integrated with both NH GRANIT system and OEP. The Communication and Outreach process will be used to disseminate data, trends and lessons learned. Copies of the regional plans will be made available to each town office and public library within the state and to participants of the public process.

Reports and Publications Outputs: Baseline assessments of social, economic, transportation, land use, demographics, climate change, housing, neighborhood walkability and safety and health-related conditions and characteristics of the regions will be completed in each of the nine regions. Statewide Sustainability Plan Framework document using elements of the nine Regional Plans for Sustainable Development.

Factor 4: Match, Leveraging Resources, and Program Integration

Summary of Match Provided

The NH SCI Consortium members have committed a total match of \$1,195,391 through cash and in-kind contributions. This match equates to 35.5% of the Requested HUD Grant Funds. Nearly all Consortium members have committed to contribute toward the match. *Details regarding each member's committed match may be found in the attached Rating Factor 3C Budget Narrative, Rating Factor 4 Form, and Letters of Commitment.*

All match provided is from non-federal sources. The regional planning commissions have committed resources from their local dues, relevant NH SCI tasks included within their federally approved UPWP and funded through local sources, tasks within their State funded Target Block Grant that directly support the SCI process, and the in-kind contributions of their municipal partners that will participate within the Regional Advisory Committees and Regional Equity Teams. *A summary table of all Regional Planning Commission Match Sources is provided in the Appendix.*

State agencies, UNH and non-profit partners have estimated staff time associated with their participation in the various committee meetings and planning process. All staff time, included as in-kind match, is supported by approved State Budget funds, dedicated State funding sources, or general operating costs.

Additionally, Nashua Regional Planning Commission was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Healthy New Hampshire (HNNH) Foundation to be used exclusively by each of the RPCs to support their work to integrate the Healthy Eating Active Living Principles into their regional plans. The NH Charitable Foundation has also committed to submit a request to its board of directors for a \$30,000 grant to help offset the costs of ActionMedia's services, if this HUD Regional Planning Grant application is successful.

Integration of Activities Supported by Federal Partnership and Other Agencies

Each of the regional planning commission's will integrate its Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD) into other federal and state funded initiatives, as well as, integrate the work of these other programs into the RPSD. Identified planning integration opportunities include:

- Unified Planning Work Program Federal Highways Funded Tasks directly related to the SCI process
- HUD 2010 Community Challenge Grant work performed by Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation and Fluvial Erosion Planning
- NTIA Funded Broadband Mapping & Regional Needs Assessment Planning
- U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) funded economic development planning projects
- Special Economic Development and Redevelopment projects funded by the U.S. EDA
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding for Brownfields Redevelopment and Planning
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Clean Water Act grants issued by the NH Department of Environmental Services for regional watershed planning projects
- USDA Rural Community Development Initiative grant funds to support planning in the North Country
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) & NH Coastal Program adaptation planning
- Federal Highway's Safe Routes To Schools travel planning
- Climate Impact Assessments funded by NOAA, National Science Foundation, and the NHCF

A summary table of all Regional Planning Commission Leveraged Resources is provided in the Appendix.

Alignment of Work with State Government Initiatives

To date, the NH SCI Consortium includes the participation of the state agencies, other governmental organizations, and other non-profit organizations listed below that have not only committed to participate in one or more committees or subcommittees, but have also agreed to contribute toward cross-integration between their own planning initiatives, and the Regional Plans for Sustainable Development (RPSD).

- *Community Development Finance Authority* – CDFFA will work to integrate the best practices and lessons learned through their work in the three U.S. Department of Energy funded Better Building's communities and share any economic development data related to clean energy jobs and energy savings.
- *NH Housing Finance Authority* – NHHFA will work to integrate into the RPSD its recent Consolidated Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice findings and recommendations. NHHFA will conduct a Housing Preferences and Needs Study during the first year of the NH SCI scope of work that will provide vital base data to the RPSDs. This study's qualitative analysis and focus group sessions held throughout the State will be integrated with the RPCs data collection and outreach efforts.
- *NH Department of Cultural Resources* – Will integrate the efforts of the RPSDs with its work with the Creative Communities Network, a consortia of local arts councils and municipal arts entities dedicated to building a stronger network that supports the creative economy in NH. Additionally, the DCR will integrate its findings from the Arts and Economic Prosperity Survey results that establish an economic profile of non-profit organizations engaged in cultural programming.
- *NH Department of Environmental Services* – DES shall integrate their recent efforts into the RPSD including the Governor's Water Sustainability Commission; other recent legislative study commission findings and recommendations; NH Water Resources Primer; NH Climate Action Plan; climate change adaptation planning; and numerous river, lake and watershed protection plans. NHDES will look to the RPSD's to inform its ongoing source water protection, water infrastructure planning and funding, and watershed protection planning, which are funded by the U.S. EPA.

- *NH Department of Health and Human Services* – DHHS will look to integrate its work on child care sustainability into the RPSD as well as general planning for healthy communities. DHHS has also included the RPCs as a partner within its application to the Centers for Disease Control Community Transformation Grant Application that improved public health capacity and integrate community-level intervention and planning strategies.
- *NH Department of Resources and Economic Development* – DRED will provide expertise to the RPSD’s through its ongoing efforts in jobs and business retention, procurement, energy efficiency for businesses, broadband, and employment.
- *NH Department of Transportation* – NHDOT will work to seek integration between the RPSDs and its Long Range Transportation Plan, Ten Year Transportation Plan, the development of the four year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, public involvement and local official consultation plans, as well as, the oversight and administration of transportation projects being managed by communities and other groups in the State.
- *NH Office of Energy and Planning* – OEP will support the RPSD process through its production of annual population estimates that provide a benchmark on the state’s growth trends and are used by each region in many forecasting and planning projects.
- *Family Assistance Advisory Council* – FAAC will integrate its work efforts and provide consultation and technical assistance to ensure equitable access for low-income families to good jobs, reliable child care, and access to health facilities, reliable transportation, and safe neighborhoods.
- *Healthy Eating Active Living* – HEAL will work to identify and merge appropriate HEAL strategies and partners to improve public health outcomes including those as identified in the Plan to Address Health Disparities and Promote Health Equity in New Hampshire, provide access to its state level partners and community coalition network for input on the regional visioning and planning process, and leverage the Foundation for Healthy Communities’ Cultural Diversity Project.
- *NH Charitable Foundation* – Will see integration into the RPSDs its work as convener of the NH DOT’s Community Advisory Committee, the Energy and Climate Collaborative, the Growth and Development Roundtable, and other efforts that inform the NH SCI.
- *Plan NH* – Will seek to integrate its Vibrant Villages New Hampshire initiative with the RPSDs.
- *NH Energy and Climate Collaborative* – will leverage and integrate its Scorecard work to develop energy, climate and sustainability metrics into the regional planning process.
- *NH Creative Communities Network* – will leverage its toolkit aimed to integrate arts and creative industries into the regional and municipal master planning process.

Letters of Commitment

Every partner has submitted a Letter of Commitment describing levels of commitment and responsibilities. All letters of commitment are provided within the *Third Exhibit* attached to this application.

Factor 5: Achieving Results and Program Evaluation

A. Rating Factor 5 Form – See Attached Rating Factor 5 Form

B. Narrative

The NH SCI is an ambitious statewide project. The success of the NH SCI rests with the consortium partners - leaders in their professions who have committed their time and resources to this project because they see the benefits of coordinating planning across sectors toward a more sustainable future for NH. The NH SCI has developed a planning process, organizational structure, and set of integrated outcomes (*detailed in the Rating Factor 5 Form*) that begins with a broad, common vision for sustainable communities, allows specific skills and expertise in sector areas to deepen that vision, brings the RPCs together to finalize a common vision, allows for the further development of that vision through nine regional engaging planning efforts, and then to ensure the final State framework is a refined, integrated, common vision that includes regionalism, equity and broad public perspective.

The mandatory outcomes of each of the RPSDs plan elements are detailed in this narrative in Rating Factor 3, Part A1. Each plan element is designed to *create regional transportation, housing, water, and air quality plans that are deeply aligned and tied to local comprehensive land use and capital investment plans* and respond to the program's stated needs as identified Rating Factor 2B and achieve the Mandatory Outcomes detailed in the Rating Factor 5 Form. For example, the NH SCI has identified a specific need to reduce economic disparities across the state, directly correlated to HUD's mandatory outcome *reduce social and economic disparities for the low-income, minority communities, and other disadvantaged populations*. By aligning plan elements, this need and related outcome is addressed through the Housing Plan that aims to reduce the cost burden of housing for the region's very low-income populations, the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice that seeks a decreased number of census tracts in the planning area with high concentrations of poverty and minority segregation, Transportation Planning with a desired outcome of reducing the disproportionate access of transit alternatives to different populations and communities, and Economic Planning that reduces disparities in educational attainment by geography and populations.

The work plan (*see detailed project timeline included within the Appendix*) is specifically designed to collaborate with partners *to align state and federal planning and investment resources with local and regional strategies for achieving sustainable communities*. The NH SCI will incorporate existing statewide policy plans into the NH Sustainability Framework, and develop strategies and policies that integrate different planning sectors. This will align the plans and lend strength and inform SCI partners' own ongoing planning and program work. An example of the benefits of integration and collaboration includes the Department of Transportation who is tasked with developing and implementing the Long Range Transportation Plan, which aims to unify transportation planning and investment with broader state goals and actions and integrate planning across all transportation modes, facilities and services to increase travel choices and establish effective collaborative partnerships. By combining efforts, the NH SCI will achieve greater results to *decrease per capita VMT and transportation-related emissions for the region* and achieve the many other outcomes identified for RPSD transportation planning such as increased percentage of streets served by bike and pedestrian infrastructure and improved regional status of ozone and or particulate matter. Additionally, by tying together planning for housing, transportation and economic development the Consortium expects to see an ultimate *increased proportion of low and very low-income households within 30-minutes of major employment centers, decrease in the overall combined housing and transportation costs per household, and an increase in the share of residential and commercial construction on underutilized infill development sites that encourage neighborhood revitalization*.

The proposed work plan and organizational structure were created to support the integrated planning process, desired outcomes and program evaluation, as well as, *increase participation and decision-making in developing and implementing a long range vision for the region by populations traditionally marginalized in public planning processes*. Once the Regional Planning Framework along with the goals and indicators are developed in Phase 1, the Technical Advisory Subcommittees will take the broad sustainable community goals and indicators, and refine them to address the specific needs within that sector, e.g. economic development, transportation, or natural resources. In Phase 2, the RPCs will engage their Advisory Committees, Regional Equity Team and community stakeholders, and through the proposed Communication and Outreach efforts gain insight and develop strategies and indicators that are more specific to that region's needs. The nine RPSD strategies and indicators will be brought back together in Phase 3 to finalize the State Sustainable Development Policy Framework.

Additional outcomes and metrics regarding the planning process and anticipated participation are detailed in Rating Factor 3, Sections A4 and D. This integrated planning approach will allow us to develop a set of indicators to measure our progress toward effectively implementing the planning process itself and also to measure our progress toward sustainable community indicators across these various sectors. Using the NH Sustainable Communities program evaluation and the HUD Logic Model will allow us to complete this much needed integrated analysis and measurement, and it will ensure that we set outcomes for our work plan that are integrated as well.