



# Embracing the Challenge of Equity in Municipal Governance

Washtenaw County Convening  
November 9, 2015

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Dwayne S. Marsh, Office of Economic Resilience

# You Must Remember This:

## My Message to You

---

- You cannot achieve good government without achieving equity; you cannot achieve equity without addressing racial inequity.
- You have more constituency for action than you may realize.
- If you want equitable development, you have to **do** equitable development.
- The index is an incredible asset that can help you stay accountable as you advance mutually beneficial outcomes for the community and region.
- Your SCI work produced a strong foundation for action; the County, jurisdictions, and partners can move it forward. Celebrate and recommit to action.
- HUD and its partners are ready to help in any way possible; you are not alone (we'll prove it).

# Office of Economic Resilience

---

- Created in 2010; renamed April 2014
- Works across federal government to align investments in housing, transportation, infrastructure, and the environment to achieve more resilient, sustainable, and equitable outcomes in communities in 3 main areas:

## Climate and Energy Initiatives

- Leads Agency Priority Goal to increase number of units completing energy efficient and healthy retrofits or new construction
- Implements the President's Climate Action Plan for HUD

## Resilience

- Leads Agency Resilience Council
- Provides leadership on design and implementation of **National Disaster Resilience Competition**

## Sustainable Communities Initiative

- Distributed **\$250m in planning grants** to 143 rural, suburban, and urban communities and capacity-building support
- Relies heavily on field-based structure of Sustainability Officers

---

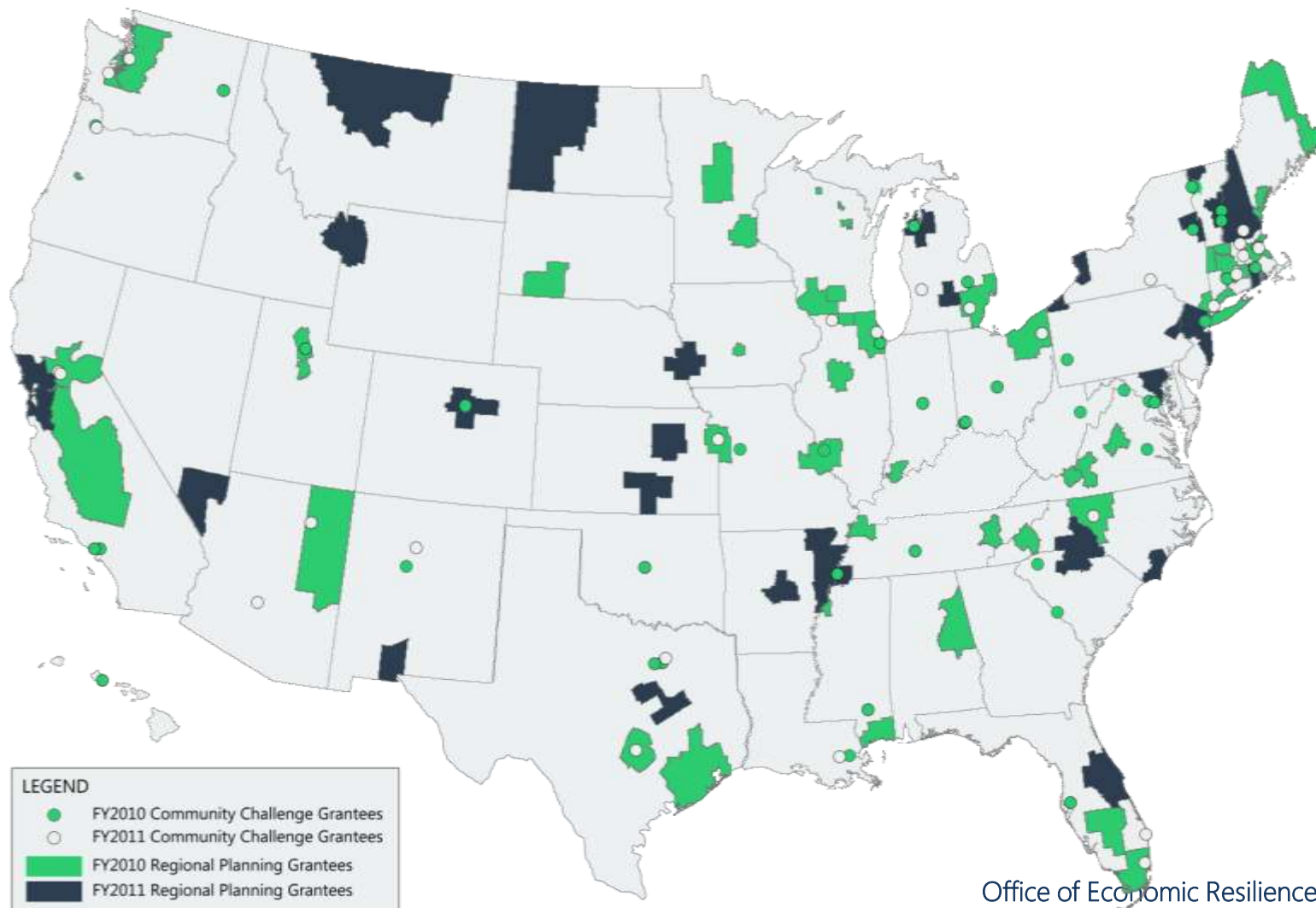
Office of Economic Resilience

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development





# Sustainable Communities Initiative: Where We Work



# Sustainable Communities Initiative:

## Impacts of the Work – Early Indicators

---

- 13 of 16 Climate Action Champions
- 11 of 14 of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership communities
- 8 of 12 Choice Implementation awards have gone to SCI regions, representing \$230 million in investment
- 143 of 294 TIGER awards have taken places in SCI Regional Grantees' planning areas, totaling \$1.45 billion in federal investment

# Sustainable Communities Initiative: Impacts of the Work – Early Indicators



**80,000+**  
Stakeholders  
Engaged



**3,500+**  
Partner  
Organizations



**2,500+**  
Public Planning  
Meetings Held



**\$180+**  
Million Leveraged  
at the Local Level



**500+**  
Planning Docs  
Created



**25+**  
Plans Awarded  
by APA or others



**74**  
Fair Housing and  
Equity Analyses



**TBD**  
Racial Equity  
Policies Initiated



# Sustainable Communities Initiative: Kudos

---

- Neighborhood Revitalization and Affordable Housing Strategy
- Fair and Equitable Housing Strategy
- Community Outreach and Leadership Development
- Transportation Equity Strategy including Zoning, Planning, and Design



# Advancing Equity in Public Investment: Principles

---

- Put equity at the forefront of every significant policy and strategy decision.
- Utilize data to develop a full understanding of the impact that racial inequities have had in creating current conditions.
- Acknowledge the diverse partners that will be required to advance a meaningful racial equity frame for policy, planning, and investment.
- Develop infrastructure, training, and tools to increase employee and resident understanding of an equity-focused approach to planning and decisionmaking.
- Implement agreed-upon strategies that will advance an effective and inclusive government that engages the community and is responsive to its needs.
- Invest in the community institutions that will build credibility and ensure authentic connection to the constituency whose condition is most directly affected by racial equity policies.





# Advancing Equity in Public Investment: Principles

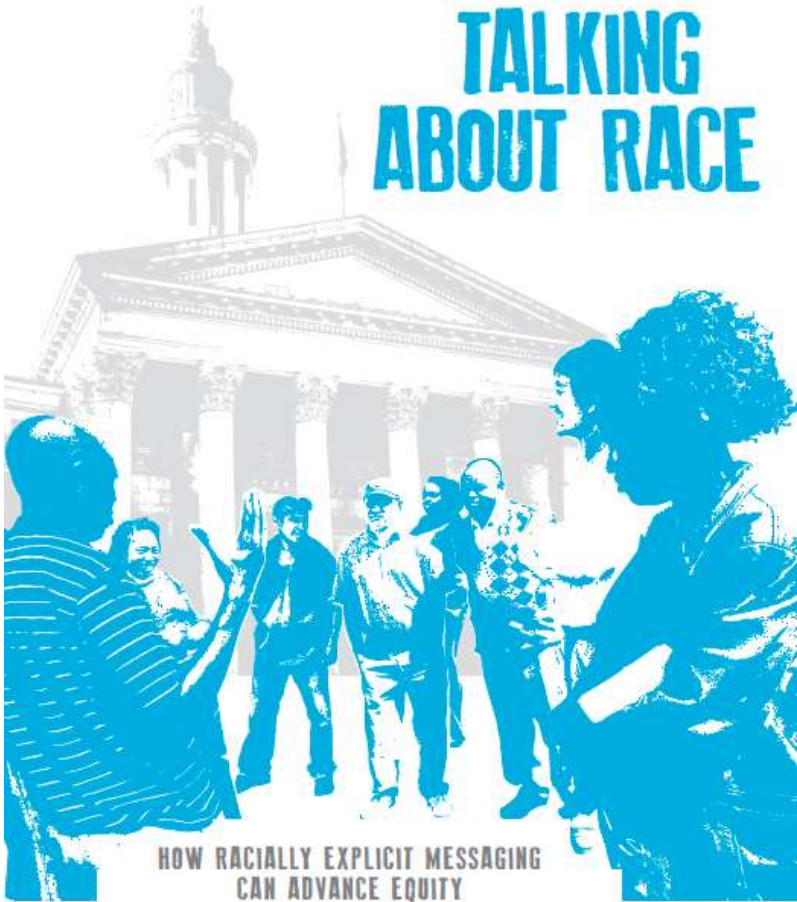
---

- Ensure that the County's communities of color share in the region's economic prosperity.
- Ensure that all Washtenaw County neighborhoods and people are safe and racial disparities are eliminated in health, education, and criminal justice systems.



# Advancing Equity in Public Investment: A Critical Moment

---



csi CENTER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

Office of Economic Resilience

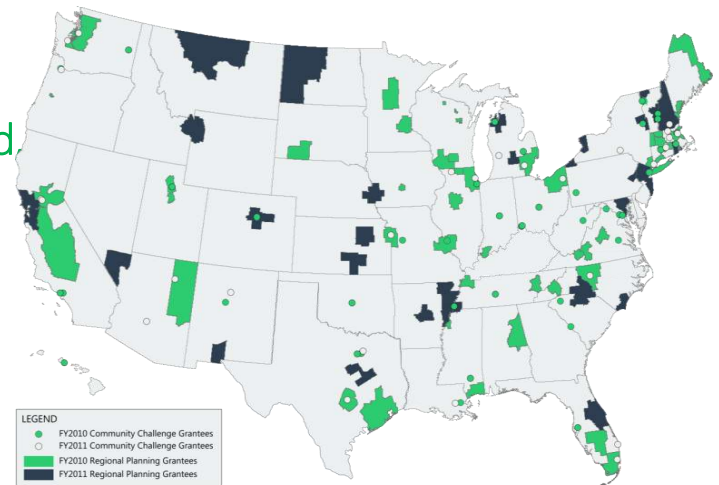
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



# Advancing Equity in Public Investment: Best Practice

---

- Devotion of SCI grant resources to Equity and Engagement  
Puget Sound, Denver, Greater Boston, Minneapolis
- Fair Housing and Equity Assessment  
Chicago, Eugene, Minneapolis, Rockford, South Florida,
- Amended Governance and Partnership Structures  
Kansas City, Denver, Greater Boston, South Florida, Shelby County
- New Municipal Priorities for Racial Equity  
New Orleans, Montachusett, Piedmont, Long Island, Seattle
- Investment in Public Infrastructure  
Baltimore, Minneapolis



# Tools to Support Your Goal:

## Place-Based Initiative Coordination

---

OER coordinates with and represents HUD on many place-based initiatives

- **HUD Initiatives**
  - Choice Neighborhoods
- **Federal Interagency Initiatives**
  - Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (economic development)
  - Climate Action Champions (climate)
  - Strong Cities, Strong Communities (reinvestment)
  - Urban Waters Partnership (environment)
  - Green Infrastructure Collaborative (infrastructure)
  - Local Foods, Local Places (food)
  - Build America (infrastructure)



OER coordinates the **Location Affordability Portal**

- **My Transportation Cost Calculator:** Compare H+T Costs in different areas
- **Location Affordability Index:** Make data-driven decisions about planning/investment

# Advancing Equity in Public Investment: The Opportunity to Act

---

- Use a racial equity framework.
- Build organizational capacity.
- Implement racial equity tools.
- Be data-driven. (use the index!)
- Partner with other institutions and communities.
- Communicate and act with urgency.

