

# National Resource Network: A New Resource for Communities

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# Sustainability, Opportunity and Efficiency

- Sustainable growth often relies on smarter public investment
- Economic opportunity depends on regional approaches and efficient and effective local government
- Fiscal sustainability requires economic competitiveness and sustainable growth

# What is the National Resource Network?

- The Obama Administration has committed \$10 million in seed funding to the National Resource Network (NRN) to provide assistance to some of the nation's economically distressed communities.
- Goal of raising another \$10 million over three years from national and community foundations, corporate funders, local governments and through leveraging additional federal funds

# What is the National Resource Network?

- NRN is a Consortium
  - ❖ Enterprise Community Partners
  - ❖ PFM
  - ❖ HR&A
  - ❖ NYU and more than forty affiliated universities
  - ❖ ICMA
- NRN will also work with key strategic partners – from Trust for Public Land to Center for Community Progress.
- Urban Institute will provide evaluation and policy support.
- Civic Consulting USA will work to develop local resource networks.

# A New Framework

- Goals are **transformative** in nature and scale; the aim is to help communities address their most pressing challenges and to provide them with the right tools to innovate and thrive.
- The network is **collaborative**, drawing upon the assets of the nation's leading experts and organizations.
- Services are directly **responsive** to needs bubbling up at the local level, with solutions generated based on those needs.

# A New Framework: Responsive to the Needs of Communities

## ***Demand-driven technical assistance and peer activity...***

- Assistance is crafted based on community needs, not developed in a vacuum or “marketed” to them.
- All localities receive a diagnostic assessing strengths and weakness, discerning their true need.

## ***that helps shape changes in policy and programming.***

- All engagements placed into a knowledge loop that will inform other communities, states, federal agencies and grantmakers how to adjust future allocations and programming.

# What will NRN Do?

- Communities will be able to apply for assistance on an ongoing basis throughout the operation of NRN
- Resources will be focused on those places most in need (economic distress) and most ready to begin or promote a turnaround
- Applications will go through an initial intake review
- Intake reviews will lead to cross-cutting assessments that look to the underlying factors driving economic distress
  - ❖ Local government operational and financial issues (e.g. budget, but also police and schools)
  - ❖ Economic development
  - ❖ Community development

# What will NRN Do?

- “Tipping point” engagements to build on and support existing efforts in community
- Will likely include significant involvement with local government and anchor institution
- Include technical assistance, such as:
  - ❖ Facilitating development of downtown plan where stakeholders have already come together
  - ❖ Training/coaching/recruitment for local government staff and key non-profits
- “Catalytic projects without a Cadillac price”



# What will NRN Do?

- High level engagements designed to have transformative impact in highly distressed, engagement ready communities
- Examples could include:
  - ❖ Development of a workforce development plan
  - ❖ Reorganization of community and economic development
  - ❖ Multi-year financial plan or operational efficiency study
- Substantial involvement of Network in program/policy design and implementation and strong local commitment for implementation

# NRN and Sustainability

- NRN will use the engagement process to promote sustainability of all types
  - ❖ ***Recognition that economic and environmental sustainability is linked to fiscal and operational issues...and vice versa***
  - ❖ ***Promotion of regional engagements that encourage regional problem solving***

# Beyond Technical Assistance...

- Create a “go to” presence on the web for best practices and access/information on TA opportunities for communities
- Establish peer network for participating communities and specific peer networks among communities with common issues/challenges
- Provide feedback on how changes in federal programs and policies can aid economic turnaround in distressed communities

# Questions/Comments?

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