

supports the development of affordable housing through the development and adoption of inclusionary zoning ordinances and other activities to support plan implementation.

The FY 2011 awards announced in this Notice were selected for funding in a competition posted on Grants.gov and HUD's Web site on July 27, 2011.

Applications were scored and selected for funding based on the selection criteria in that NOFA. The amount

appropriated in FY 2011 to fund the Challenge Grant Program was \$30 million of which \$1 million had been reserved for capacity support grants distributed separately. This notice announces the allocation of \$28 million for Community Challenge Planning Grants, of which not less than \$3 million is awarded to jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

In accordance with Section 102 (a)(4)(C) of the Department of Housing

and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (103 Stat.1987, 42 U.S.C. 3545), the Department is publishing the names, addresses, and amounts of the 27 awards made under the competition in Appendix A to this document.

Dated: December 22, 2011.

Shelley Poticha,

Director, Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities.

Appendix A

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS FROM FY 2011 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

City of Boston, 26 Court Street, Boston, MA: Massachusetts 02108-2501	\$1,865,160
City of Beaverton, 4755 SW Griffith Drive, PO Box 4755, Beaverton, OR: Oregon 97076-4755	1,000,000
The Hopi Tribe, P.O. Box 123, Kykotsmobi, AZ: Arizona 86039-123	150,000
Thurston Regional Planning Council, 2424 Heritage Ct. SW., Suite A, Olympia, WA: Washington 98502-6013	763,962
City of Seattle, P.O. Box 94725, Seattle, WA: Washington 98124-4725	2,999,257
City of Phoenix, AZ, 200 W. Washington Street, 3rd Floor, Phoenix, AZ: Arizona 85003-1611	2,935,634
New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, 32 Constitution Drive, Bedford, NH: New Hampshire 03110-6000	1,000,000
Pueblo de Cochiti Housing Authority, P.O. Box 98, Cochiti, NM: New Mexico 87072-0000	292,023
Town of Mansfield, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT: Connecticut 06268-2599	610,596
City of Stamford, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT: Connecticut 06904-2152	1,105,288
Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, 1427 Water Street Rear Building, Fitchburg, MA: Massachusetts 01420-7266	129,500
City of Worcester, 455 Main St., Worcester, MA: Massachusetts 01608-1821	930,000
Mid-America Regional Council, 600 Broadway, Suite 200, Kansas City, MO: Missouri 64105-1659	403,432
City of Austin, 1000 E. 11th St., Austin, TX: Texas 78702-1943	3,000,000
City of Freeport, Illinois, 230 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL: Illinois 61032-4359	295,419
The Village of Oak Park, 123 Madison Street, Oak Park, IL: Illinois 60302-4272	2,916,272
City of Grand Rapids, 1120 Monroe Avenue NW., Suite 300, Grand Rapids, MI: Michigan 49503-1038	459,224
County of Washtenaw, 220 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 8645, Ann Arbor, MI: Michigan 48107-8645	3,000,000
City of Warren, 391 Mahoning Avenue, Warren, OH: Ohio 44483-1000	356,964
Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento, 801 12th Street, Sacramento, CA: California 95814-2404	150,000
City of West Sacramento, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA: California 95691-2717	400,000
Parish of St. Charles, 15045 River Road, P.O. Box 302, Hahnville, LA: Louisiana 70057-0302	442,422
City of High Point, 211 South Hamilton Street, High Point, NC: North Carolina 27260-5232	239,141
City of Binghamton, 38 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY: New York 13901-3767	486,058
City of Garland, TX, P.O. Box 469002, 800 Main Street, Garland, TX: Texas 75046-9002	106,500
City of Opa-locka, 780 Fisherman Street, 4th Floor, Opa-locka, FL: Florida 33054-3806	624,479
Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, 301 North Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL: Florida 33401-4700	1,980,504
Total	28,641,835

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-5500-FA-30]

Announcement of Funding Awards for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2011

AGENCY: Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, HUD.

ACTION: Announcement of funding awards.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 102(a)(4)(C) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989, this announcement notifies the public of funding decisions made by the Department in a competition for funding under the

Fiscal Year 2011 (FY 2011) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program (Regional Grants). This announcement contains the consolidated names and addresses of this year's award recipients.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dwayne S. Marsh, Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20410-4500, telephone (202) 402-6316. Hearing or speech-impaired individuals may access this number via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Service at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program (Program) supports metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic

and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of: (1) Economic competitiveness and revitalization; (2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; (3) energy use and climate change; and (4) public health and environmental impact. The Program places a priority on investing in partnerships, including nontraditional partnerships (e.g., arts and culture, recreation, public health, food systems, regional planning agencies and public education entities) that translate the Livability Principles (Section I.C.1) into strategies that direct long-term development and reinvestment, demonstrate a commitment to addressing issues of regional significance, use data to set and monitor progress toward performance goals, and engage stakeholders and

residents in meaningful decision-making roles.

Funding from this Program will support the development and implementation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development (RPSD) that:

- a. Identify affordable housing, transportation, water infrastructure, economic development, land use planning, environmental conservation, energy system, open space, and other infrastructure priorities for the region;
- b. Clearly define a single, integrated plan for regional development that addresses potential population growth or decline over a minimum 20-year time frame, sets appropriate 3- to 5-year benchmark performance targets, and delineates strategies to meet established performance goals;
- c. Establish performance goals and measures that are, at a minimum, consistent with the Sustainability Partnership's Livability Principles;
- d. Use geo-coded data sets and other metrics in developing, implementing, monitoring, and assessing the performance goals of various reinvestment scenarios;
- e. Provide detailed plans, maps, policies, and implementation strategies

to be adopted by all participating jurisdictions over time to meet planning goals;

f. Prioritize projects that facilitate the implementation of the regional plan and identify responsible implementing entities (public, nonprofit, or private) and funding sources;

g. Show how the proposed plan will establish consistency with HUD, Department of Transportation (DOT), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs and policies, such as Consolidated Plans, Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, Long Range Transportation Plans, Indian Housing Plans, and Asset Management Plans, including strategies to modify existing plans, where appropriate; and

h. Engage residents and other stakeholders substantively and meaningfully in the development of the shared vision and its implementation early and throughout the process, including communities traditionally marginalized from such processes, while accommodating limited English speakers, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

The FY 2011 awards announced in this Notice were selected for funding in a competition posted on *Grants.gov* and HUD's Web site on July 25, 2011. Applications were scored and selected for funding based on the selection criteria in that NOFA. The amount appropriated in FY 2011 to fund the Regional Grant Program was \$70 million of which \$2 million has been reserved for capacity support grants distributed separately. This notice announces the allocation of \$67 million for Sustainable Community Regional Planning Grants, of which not less than \$17.5 million is awarded to regions with populations of less than 500,000.

In accordance with Section 102 (a)(4)(C) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (103 Stat. 1987, 42 U.S.C. 3545), the Department is publishing the names, addresses, and amounts of the 29 awards made under the competition in Appendix A to this document.

Dated: December 22, 2011.

Shelley Poticha,

Director, Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities.

Appendix A

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

Grant Awards from FY 2011 Notice of Funding Availability

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 3 Rutgers Plaza ASB III, 2nd Floor, New Brunswick, NJ: New Jersey 08901-8559	\$5,000,000
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, 181 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, NY: New York 14203-0032	2,000,000
State of Rhode Island, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI: Rhode Island 02908-5872	1,934,961
Metropolitan Transportation Commission, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA: California 94607-4707	4,991,336
Denver Regional Council of Governments, 1290 Broadway, Suite 700, Denver, CO: Colorado 80203-5606	4,500,000
Opportunity Link, Inc., 2229 5th Avenue, P.O. Box 80, Havre, MT: Montana 59501-0080	1,500,000
Centralina Council of Governments, 525 North Tryon Street, 12th Floor, Charlotte, NC: North Carolina 28202-0202	4,907,544
Nashua Regional Planning Commission, 9 Executive Park Drive, Suite 201, Merrimack, NH: New Hampshire 03054-4045	3,369,648
City of Henderson on behalf of the SNRPC, 240 Water St., P.O. Box 95050, Henderson, NV: Nevada 89009-5050	3,488,000
Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 155 Lake Street, St. Albans, VT: Vermont 05478-2219	480,000
East Arkansas Planning and Development District, P.O. Box 1403, 2905 King Street, Jonesboro, AR: Arkansas 72403-1403	2,600,000
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 309 Cranes Roost Blvd., Suite 2000, Altamonte Springs, FL: Florida 32701-3422	2,400,000
Fremont County Idaho, 125 North Bridge Street, St. Anthony, ID: Idaho 834455004	1,500,000
Rural Economic Area Partnership Investment Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 2024, Minot, ND: North Dakota 58702-2024	1,500,000
Doña Ana County, 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM: New Mexico 80007-845	2,000,000
Adirondack Gateway Council Inc., 42 Ridge Street, Glens Falls, NY: New York 12801-3610	750,000
Cape Fear Council of Governments, 1480 Harbour Drive, Wilmington, NC: North Carolina 28401-7776	1,130,000
Baltimore Metropolitan Council, 1500 Whetstone Way, Suite 300, Baltimore, MD: Maryland 212304767	3,503,677
Shelby County Government, 160 North Main, Suite 850, Memphis, TN: Tennessee 38103-1812	2,619,999
Heart of Texas Council of Governments, 1514 South New Road, Waco, TX: Texas 76711-1316	660,000
Regional Economic Area Partnership, 1845 Fairmount St., Wichita, KS: Kansas 67260-0155	1,500,000
Flint Hills Regional Council, Inc., 500 Huebner Road, Fort Riley, KS: Kansas 66442-7409	1,980,000
Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, P.O. Box 506, Traverse City, MI: Michigan 49685-0506	660,000
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, 913 W. Holmes Rd. Ste., 201, Lansing, MI: Michigan 48910-0411	3,000,000
Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA), 2222 Cuming, Omaha, NE: Nebraska 68102-4328	2,045,000
County of Erie, Erie County Courthouse, Room 111, 140 West Sixth Street, Erie, PA: Pennsylvania 16501-1092	1,800,000
Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation, 2158 Ave. C, Bethlehem, PA: Pennsylvania 18017-2148	3,400,000
Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, 128 King Farm Rd., Woodstock, VT: Vermont 05091-1052	540,000
Metroplan, 501 W. Markham, Ste. B, Little Rock, AR: Arkansas 72201-1409	1,400,000
Total	67,160,165

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BILLING CODE 4210-67-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R4-ES-2011-N195;
FXES1115040000F4-123-FF04E00000]

Spring Pygmy Sunfish Candidate Conservation Agreement With Assurances; Receipt of Application for Enhancement of Survival Permit; Beaverdam Springs, Limestone County, AL

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application from Mr. Banks Sewell of Belle Mina Farm Ltd. (applicant) for an enhancement of survival permit (permit) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The permit application includes a proposed candidate conservation agreement with assurances (CCAA), between the applicant, the Land Trust of Huntsville and North Alabama, and the Service for the spring pygmy sunfish. The CCAA would be implemented at the Beaverdam—Moss Creek/Spring Complex within Limestone County, Alabama. We have made a preliminary determination that the proposed CCAA and permit application are eligible for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The basis for this preliminary determination is contained in a draft environmental action statement (EAS). We are accepting comments on the permit application, the proposed CCAA, and the draft EAS.

DATES: We must receive comments no later than March 22, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the application, the draft CCAA, and the draft EAS may obtain copies by request from Daniel Drennen, Mississippi Field Office, by phone at 601-321-1127, or via mail or email (see below). The application and related documents will also be available for public inspection, by appointment only, during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the Jackson, Mississippi, Field Office (address listed below) or on our Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/mississippiES/endsp.html>.

Comments concerning the application, the draft CCAA, and the draft EAS should be submitted in

writing, by one of the following methods:

Email: daniel_drennen@fws.gov.

Fax: 601-965-4340.

U.S. mail: Daniel Drennen, Mississippi Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson, MS 39213.

Please refer to Permit number TE-40219A-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel Drennen, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Mississippi Field Office, 601-321-1127. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We furnish this notice to provide the public, other State and Federal agencies, and interested Tribes an opportunity to review and comment on the permit application, including the draft CCAA and draft EAS. We specifically request information, views, and opinions from the public on the proposed Federal action of issuing a permit. Further, we solicit information regarding the adequacy of the permit application, including the proposed CCAA, as measured against our permit issuance criteria found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.22(d) and 17.32(d).

Background

Under a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances, participating landowners voluntarily undertake management activities on their property to enhance, restore, or maintain habitat benefiting species that are proposed for listing under the Act, candidates for listing, or that may become candidates or proposed for listing. Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs), and the associated permits we issue under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531. et seq.), encourage private and other non-Federal property owners to implement conservation efforts for species by assuring property owners that they will not be subjected to increased land use restrictions if that species becomes listed under the Act in the future provided certain conditions are met. Application requirements and issuance criteria for permits through CCAAs are found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 17.22(d) and 17.32(d). See also our policy on CCAAs (64 FR 32 726; June 17, 1999).

The conservation of the spring pygmy sunfish (*Elassoma alabamae*) is of concern to the Service, other biologists, and the landowners whose properties

contain the species. The spring pygmy sunfish is a spring-associated fish, endemic to the Tennessee River drainage of Lauderdale and Limestone Counties in northern Alabama. The species historically occurred in three distinct spring complexes (Cave Springs, Lauderdale County; Beaverdam Springs and Pryor Springs, Limestone County). The single remaining population of this species occupies about 5 river miles (mi) (8.05 river kilometers (km)) within four spring pools (Moss, Beaverdam, Thorsen, and Horton Springs) associated with the upper Beaverdam Springs complex in Limestone County, Alabama.

The preferred habitat for the spring pygmy sunfish is clear and colorless to slightly stained spring water, spring runs, and associated spring-fed wetlands (Warren 2004). The species is highly localized within these spring pools and is found in association with patches of dense, filamentous submergent vegetation. Spring pygmy sunfish abundance is correlated with specific water quantity and quality parameters (i.e., water flow velocity, turbidity, and water temperatures) and certain associated species such as amphipods, isopods, spring salamanders, crayfish, and snails (Sandel, pers. comm., 2007).

On April 1, 2011, the Service published a 90-day finding on a petition to list the spring pygmy sunfish as endangered under the Act (76 FR 18138). The Service found that the petition presented substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that listing this species may be warranted, and announced the initiation of a formal status review. For further information on previous Federal actions regarding the species, please refer to the 90-day finding. As a result of our “substantial” 90-day finding, we are currently collecting and analyzing data to assess the species’ status. At the end of the yearlong period, the Service will publish a finding, known commonly as a “12-month finding,” on whether or not listing is warranted. In accordance with court-approved settlement entered into last year with Wild Earth Guardians and the Center for Biological Diversity, if we determine that listing is warranted, our 12-month finding will include a proposed rule to list the spring pygmy sunfish under the Act.

The area to be covered under the proposed CCAA is approximately 3,200 acres within the Beaverdam Springs complex, owned by the applicant and located in Limestone County, Alabama. The proposed CCAA represents a significant milestone in the cooperative conservation efforts for this species and