

# HUD Plans Listening Sessions on Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program

*NLIHC's Memo to Members*  
*February 26, 2010*

HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities (OSHC) has announced the dates and locations of listening sessions the agency will hold to receive input regarding the structure of the new Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program.

The FY10 appropriations makes \$150 million available for the Obama Administration's Sustainable Communities Initiative. As the initiative's primary grant program, the Planning Grants would provide \$100 million to regions to support multi-jurisdictional regional planning efforts that integrate housing, transportation, environmental impact, and economic development decision-making. Earlier in February, HUD issued an Advance Notice and Request for Comment in order to gain input prior to issuing a Notice of Fund Availability.

OSHC will hold national webcasts on March 9 and March 11, both at 1 pm ET. To participate on the webcasts, go to [www.hud.gov/webcasts/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/index.cfm). HUD will take comments during the webcast via email at [sustainablecommunities@hud.gov](mailto:sustainablecommunities@hud.gov). Advocates are advised to periodically check the OSHC website for more information, [www.hud.gov/sustainability](http://www.hud.gov/sustainability).

In addition to the webcasts, local listening sessions are scheduled in Albuquerque, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Hartford, and Cleveland from March 1 to March 10. Listening sessions were held in Miami on February 19 and Denver on February 26.

Advocates are urged to watch the webcast even if they think their region is not likely to apply for a grant, because HUD and other federal agencies are just beginning their stated attempt to integrate housing, transportation, and environmental considerations. Therefore, it is important to introduce and keep the impacts of regional efforts on low income people and communities in the forefront as other HUD programs, processes, and policies attempt to address the sustainable communities concept.

**Comments on the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants are due March 12.** The Advance Notice is at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-2979.pdf>

NLIHC's Principles are at: <http://www.nlihc.org/doc/Principles-NLIHC-Letterhead.pdf>