



FHEA RESULTS SUMMARIES:

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE GRANTEES

FHEA BACKGROUND

All recipients of HUD's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant produced a Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA) as part of their final deliverables. Using data provided by HUD and supplemental local data, grantees examined regional access to opportunity based on an analysis of the following components:

- Segregated Areas and Areas of Increasing Diversity and/or Racial/Ethnic Integration
- Racially & Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty (RCAPs and ECAPs)
- Access to Existing Areas of High Opportunity
- Major Public Investments
- Fair Housing Issues, Services, and Activities

The FHEA provided a historical and cultural context for current fair housing challenges, and highlighted the legacy of land-use decisions, investments, and policies that may have limited or enhanced opportunity for different parts of the region.

Community engagement was a key aspect of the FHEA process and in many cases, resulted in crucial insights about barriers to opportunity that would not otherwise have been captured in the analysis. It also brought often underrepresented groups to the decision-making table and built capacity for sustained engagement in local planning processes.

This tool helped diverse stakeholders create a comprehensive picture of the housing, infrastructure, and employment dynamics that shape opportunity in the region, and the findings informed the final regional plan as well as the decisions about implementation and investment that followed.

FHEA RESULTS SUMMARY

Regions that have completed an FHEA have:

STREAMLINED AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICIES

Baltimore, MD: The Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that improves the efficiency of rental housing policy by reducing administrative burdens on local governments, developers, and state entities.

ALTERED TRANSIT ROUTES AND LEVEL OF SERVICE TO EXPAND ACCESS

Baltimore, MD: Baltimore's Opportunity Collaborative is working with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to strengthen connections between opportunity areas, affordable housing, and employment centers.

Lane County, OR: The Lane County Regional Transit Agency is now working to address scheduling and routes to better serve low income transit-dependent households based on FHEA data and findings.

REVISED THEIR TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FORMULA TO REFLECT EQUITY PRIORITIES

Minneapolis- St. Paul, MN: The Metropolitan Council changed their federal transportation funding formula for the first time in over 20 years to prioritize projects that provide benefits for vulnerable populations and those in racially concentrated areas of poverty. The new equity criteria will affect about \$150 million in federal transportation funds.

PASSED LEGISLATION TO INSTITUTIONALIZE EQUITY LENS IN LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

Madison, WI: The City of Madison passed a resolution authorizing a participatory budgeting pilot program due to findings in the FHEA and is also developing an Equity Impact Model to assess the potential impacts of government plans and decisions.

ESTABLISHED REGIONAL EQUITY LEADERSHIP STRUCTURES

Kansas City region, MO/KS: The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) established a Regional Equity Network to ensure that all future policy decisions reflect the equity priorities identified in the KC FHEA.

DEVELOPED SOPHISTICATED OPPORTUNITY MAPPING TOOLS

Baltimore, MD: The National Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland worked with the Opportunity Collaborative to create a regional opportunity mapping analysis for Baltimore, which included a composite opportunity index derived from selected social and economic indicators (i.e. education, public health and safety, employment, etc.)

Austin, TX: The Sustainable Places Project FHEA built on an Opportunity Mapping project conducted with the Kirwan Institute and Green Doors. As an example of the utility of this type of analysis: the City of Austin used these opportunity maps to guide \$56.6 million in affordable housing investments.

TRAINED OTHER MUNICIPALITIES ON EFFECTIVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Lane County, OR: Towns throughout Oregon are now seeking training on the strategies developed through the Livability Lane process for engaging Latino and other marginalized communities. The Eugene City Council recently used these strategies to reach out to the Latino community for their Parks and Open Space Planning Process after the Livability Lane project demonstrated that Latinos often feel excluded from Eugene's parks.

USED THE FHEA AS A FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENT FOR OTHER MAJOR REGIONAL PLANS AND SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

Madison, WI: The Madison region FHEA was used in successful grant applications for a Plan4Health award from the American Planning Association and Centers for Disease Control, and a \$300,000 2014 U.S. DOT TIGER grant.

Chicago, IL: Cook County used the FHEA as a foundational document in Planning for Progress, which unites the federally required Consolidated Plan and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy into a single plan for public investments (estimated at about \$300 million).

PROMOTED EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AROUND FAIR HOUSING TO REDUCE STIGMAS AND DISCRIMINATION, AND INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT HOUSING OPTIONS

Baltimore, MD: The “Consider the Person” campaign, a demonstration project funded by the Opportunity Collaborative, is a public education campaign to change perceptions among landlords and community members that deny families with Housing Choice Vouchers a fair choice of housing. The Collaborative also created educational booklets on fair housing protections for both renters and homeowners, with translations in Spanish and Korean.

PARTNERED WITH PEER REGIONS TO LAUNCH NEW MODELS FOR REGIONAL HOUSING VOUCHER MOBILITY

Chicago, Baltimore, and Denver are now collaborating on a model for coordinating regional PHA resources based on Chicago’s successful Regional Housing Initiative. The Opportunity Collaborative sponsored a 2014 learning tour to Chicago to learn how to deploy these housing mobility innovations in Baltimore.

EXPANDED THE CHARTER OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS TO INCLUDE HOUSING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Baltimore, MD: The Maryland state legislature expanded the charter of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council to include both housing and workforce development responsibilities in response to the issues raised by the FHEA and the Regional Plan.