

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
OFFERED BY  
THE SMART GROWTH NETWORK**

Revised Edition  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Smart Growth Network (SGN) provides a forum for encouraging development that benefits the economy, community and environment. The Network is led by 36 partner organizations, many of whom offer direct assistance on issues related to smart growth. This document provides a brief overview of those assistance programs.

Individuals can become members of the Smart Growth Network at no charge by contacting the International City/County Management Association (phone 202-962-3623 or e-mail [smartgrowth@icma.org](mailto:smartgrowth@icma.org)). Members receive access to a wide variety of smart growth information sources and can participate on a members' listserv.

## American Farmland Trust (AFT)

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** Planning for agriculture

**Service Overview:** AFT helps communities develop and implement plans that connect sustainable agriculture with sustainable development. AFT's client-driven approach is designed to meet the needs of a specific state or local community by engaging stakeholders while drawing on national expertise. AFT conducts research; writes agricultural development, rural or open space portions of master plans; and develops entire comprehensive plans for agriculture. AFT also provides fiscal and economic studies, mapping services, and training and outreach programs to support and strengthen local agriculture.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** No formal selection process or deadlines. AFT's Farmland Information Center (FIC) provides up to one hour of free assistance per request, after which it charges on an hourly basis. All other services are on a fee basis that can range from \$1,000 to \$100,000.

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**Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.**  
*(Formerly The Enterprise Foundation)*

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** Affordable Housing Development, Green Communities Initiative, Native American Program, Community Development Policy and Communication. Focus on large-scale mixed-income suburban and inner-city projects, affordable green building, development financing, and land use policies.

**Service Overview:** Enterprise works with major developers and local governments on project planning, financing and construction; helps local officials devise new zoning ordinances and other equitable policies to expand or preserve affordable housing; seeks creation of financial products, services and programs to spur affordable housing and encourage green construction; and familiarizes local community organizations with nonprofit lobbying regulations, while helping them shape the affordable-housing policy agenda.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** Flexible and without deadlines, Enterprise expects interested parties to contact its local area offices or the Columbia, Maryland headquarters. Policy assistance limited to cities where Enterprise has an established presence; market-rate fees elsewhere. Details, including a list of local offices, available at Enterprise's website.

**Website:** [www.enterprisecommunity.org](http://www.enterprisecommunity.org)

**Contact:**

For-fee Services: Tiana Coll  
Project Manager, Enterprise Advisors  
(410) 772-3056  
[tcoll@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:tcoll@enterprisecommunity.org)

Policy Services: Noreen Beatley  
Director of State and Local Policy  
(202) 842-9190 ext. 17  
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## **Governors' Institute on Community Design**

*A Partnership Between Smart Growth America's Smart Growth Leadership Institute and the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education at the University of Maryland*

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** Assisting governors, their cabinets and top staff as they seek to guide growth and development in their states.

**Service Overview:** With major funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Governors' Institute on Community Design develops intensive, multi-day workshops bringing a governor and his or her staff together with nationally renowned experts in the fields of transportation, land use, housing, environment, and economic development. Each workshop is tailored to the interests of the host governor and the needs of his or her state.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** There is no formal application process or deadline. Expressions of interest are accepted at any time; at least four workshops are scheduled annually. Participation by the host governor, key cabinet and senior staff is mandatory; in-kind support from the host state is welcomed but not required. Assistance is limited to governors, their cabinets, and their staff.

**Website:** [www.govinstitute.org](http://www.govinstitute.org)

**Contact:** Tamar Shapiro  
Associate Director  
Governors' Institute on Community Design  
(202) 207-3355, ext. 24  
tshapiro@govinstitute.org

## International City/County Management Association (ICMA)

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** ICMA Technical Assistance-U.S. Focus on local government management issues, including vacant property reclamation, smart growth, active living, aging in place, emergency management services, public safety, military base reuse, and development encroachment on military installations. In addition, ICMA's Center for Performance Measurement helps localities quantify, compare, and improve delivery of municipal services.

**Service Overview:** With its extensive network of members and other professionals, ICMA helps local officials improve performance, avoid costly mistakes, and deal with challenges that range from instituting smart codes to conducting performance measurements.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** Communities are selected based on their needs and ability to contribute to the success of technical assistance, with rolling applications, no deadlines, and fees negotiated case by case.

**Website:** <http://icma.org>

**Contact (for both programs):** Mosi Kitwana  
Team Leader, Technical Assistance-U.S.  
(202) 962-3532  
[techassist.us@icma.org](mailto:techassist.us@icma.org)

## Local Government Commission (LGC)

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** Assistance tailored for a variety of needs and projects, including code reform and form-based codes; street design and retrofit for greater walkability and bike access; Main Street and commercial strip revitalization and safe routes to school; emergency responder issues; compact residential development; public participation in planning; community image surveys; context sensitive solutions; workshop and conference organization; and links between community design and health, energy and water.

**Service Overview:** LGC offers code review and suggests improvements to facilitate smart growth; conducts design training, workshops, and charrettes; partners with jurisdictions on planning efforts and public outreach; and provides assistance with general and development plans in the context of specific community enhancement goals.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** No set procedure or deadlines. LGC may assist small jurisdictions in pursuing grants for given projects or be hired by a jurisdiction, a consulting firm, or a developer seeking help for planning or a community design process. Fees depend on service provided.

**Website:** <http://www.lgc.org/services>

**Contact:** Paul Zykofsky, AICP  
Director, Land Use/Transportation Programs  
(916) 448-1198 ext. 317  
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## National Association of Realtors (NAR)

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** Smart Growth Assistance for REALTOR® Associations and REALTORS® only. Includes Smart Growth Action Grants, Land Use Initiative, Customized State Land Use Legislation, and Voter Survey. Focus on getting state and local associations and their members involved in community planning and advocacy for smart growth.

**Service Overview:** NAR offers grants of up to \$3,000 for smart growth activities, including educational forums; pays REALTOR® associations' full costs for expert analyses of proposed land-use legislation; and shares costs for helping to create state land-use legislation.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** NAR requires brief assistance applications. Smart Growth Action Grants awarded in the spring and fall; other free and cost-share resources provided as needed. Assistance is limited to REALTOR® Associations and REALTORS®.

**Website:** [www.realtors.org/smartgrowth](http://www.realtors.org/smartgrowth)

**Contact:** Hugh Morris  
Community Outreach Representative  
(202) 383-1278  
[hmorris@realtors.org](mailto:hmorris@realtors.org)

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
National Sea Grant College Program**

*In Partnership with U.S. EPA's Development, Community and Environment  
Division (DCED)*

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** Smart Growth Implementation Assistance, limited to Sea Grant Universities with a demonstrated local community partnership. Focus on policy analysis and public participation processes to promote smart growth.

**Service Overview:** Using direct NOAA grant support for Sea Grant University projects, Sea Grant staff work with EPA-funded technical contractors to assist universities' local partners with approved projects.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** NOAA, Sea Grant and EPA reviewers rate proposals and make recommendations to NOAA and EPA assistance team leaders. Annual application rounds expected, depending on availability of funds. NOAA direct grants require 50 percent matching university contributions (cash or in-kind); DCED provides matching contractor assistance. Assistance available to Sea Grant Universities only.

**Website:** N/A

**Contact:** Jim Murray  
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## National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** National Trust Main Street Center Consulting Services, helping revitalize traditional downtown and neighborhood business districts.

**Service Overview:** The National Trust Main Street Center offers a wide variety of informational, training, and consulting assistance, including organizational development; business retention/reinvestment strategies; and planning, policy and market analyses.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** There are no deadlines for assistance from the Main Street Center; fees vary depending on the service provided.

**Website:** [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org) and [www.mainstreet.org](http://www.mainstreet.org)

**Contact:** Stephanie Redman  
Assistant Director  
National Trust Main Street Center  
(202) 588-6219  
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## **National Vacant Properties Campaign**

*A Partnership Between Smart Growth America,  
Local Initiatives Support Coalition and  
Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech*

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** National Vacant Properties Campaign, with its Technical Assistance Demonstration Program and fee-based technical services. Focus on problems associated with reclaiming and redeveloping vacant residential, commercial, and industrial building lots.

**Service Overview:** With funds from the Surdna Foundation, the Technical Assistance Demonstration Program is providing direct assistance to seven selected cities for 2005-06; fee-based technical services are available to all other qualified parties. Four types of assistance: vacant property systems assessments, to identify primary challenges, goals and reuse strategies; vacant property training roundtables, to familiarize local leaders with prevention, acquisition and disposition models, revitalization tools and strategies; technical assistance to implement specific strategies, depending on community circumstances and priorities; and leadership consultations, to foster a broad inter-jurisdictional exchange of views and peer-to-peer learning among local government leaders.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** To qualify for assistance, communities should demonstrate strong support for site reuse from local leaders; involve a diverse coalition of public, private and nonprofit groups; show detrimental effects of vacant properties on local quality of life or markets citywide; and commit local government funds, staff time, and other group resources to defray campaign costs and ensure reform effectiveness. Annual solicitation for demonstration program expected, depending on funding availability. No deadline for other assistance. Technical service fees depend on service scope.

**Website:** [www.vacantproperties.org](http://www.vacantproperties.org)

**Contact:** Jennifer Leonard  
National Vacant Properties Campaign Director  
(202) 207-3355 ext. 23  
[jleonard@smartgrowthamerica.org](mailto:jleonard@smartgrowthamerica.org)

## **Smart Growth America's Smart Growth Leadership Institute**

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** Smart Growth Implementation Assistance and fee-based technical services focused on problems associated with implementing smart growth policies, plans, procedures, codes and zoning, including the challenges of building support, identifying the most problematic policy and regulatory barriers, and determining a strategic path for implementation.

**Service Overview:** With funds from the US EPA and the Ford Foundation, the Smart Growth Implementation Technical Assistance Program is providing direct assistance to five selected communities for 2005-2006. Fee-based technical services also are available to other qualified communities, negotiated case-by-case. The program provides (1) policy, code, and zoning audits to help communities align their regulatory instruments with smart growth principles; (2) project scorecards, used to help communities “green-light” desired development projects or select projects that qualify for local incentives; (3) design guidelines to help communities define the form of the built environment in specific development zones or to define general community characteristics; (4) smart sites incentives matrix to help communities align incentives at the federal, state and local levels to encourage smart growth projects; and (5) strategic implementation assessments, to help communities map a path to smart growth implementation by identifying key coalitions, necessary collaborations, catalytic projects, and critical strategic choices.

Selected communities may serve as case studies for developing a national smart growth implementation kit.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** There are no deadlines; applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Fees depend on scope of service. Interested communities or community advocates should (1) demonstrate strong support of smart growth principles within the community, (2) have elected or appointed leaders willing to champion the issues to move the process forward; and (3) be willing to commit local resources, funds and staff time to both partner with the assistance team and continue the process after the assistance is completed.

**Website:** [www.sgli.org](http://www.sgli.org)

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bdelapena@sgli.org

## The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Center for Communities by Design

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** American Institute of Architects Design Assistance Team Programs – Regional/Urban Design Assistance and Sustainable Design Assessment . Focus on creating livable, healthy, safe, and sustainable communities through better design.

**Service Overview:** Established in 1967, the Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team program (R/UDAT) offers a grassroots, charrette-style approach, combining the expertise of renowned professionals with local resources in intensive, four-day, on-site workshops to help communities envision their future. The Sustainable Design Assessment Team program (SDAT), modeled after R/UDAT and introduced in 2005, provides broad community assessments to help set local policies and design solutions aimed at a sustainable long-term relationship between people, the environment, and the place. Other forms of assistance depend on community needs.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** Local steering committees must represent diverse constituencies within the community and the local AIA units must support any proposed projects. The SDAT deadline is November to early January (please check for the year for which you are applying); applications for the R/UDAT program and other assistance projects are accepted throughout the year. The community must fund the team visit or match AIA funds, depending on the program.

**Website:** [www.aia.org/liv\\_dat](http://www.aia.org/liv_dat)

**Contact:** Ann Livingston, Esq.  
Director, AIA Center for Communities by Design  
(202) 626-7405  
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## The Conservation Fund

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** Conservation Real Estate; Conservation Loan Funds; and Sustainable Programs, which include Strategic Conservation Programs, The Center for Conservation and Development, Land Advisory Services, and The Conservation Leadership Network.

**Service Overview:** Tailoring assistance and training to local needs, The Conservation Fund helps communities safeguard their natural resources and sense of place and ensure the compatibility of nearby development. Assistance includes professional advice, financial or technical support for direct land conservation or select development projects, thematic workshops, strategic conservation planning, and land-management guidelines.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** No formal application procedure or deadline. Interested parties are expected to present brief project descriptions, objectives and service needs. Maps, photos, site plans and graphics are helpful to project evaluation.

**Website:** [www.conservationfund.org](http://www.conservationfund.org)

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## Urban Land Institute (ULI)

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** Advisory Services Program. Focus on issues related to land development, redevelopment, economic development, and neighborhood revitalization.

**Service Overview:** ULI assembles teams of volunteer real estate and planning professionals, chosen for their expertise and screened for conflict of interest. Teams help communities handle their complex land-use issues and devise the most effective strategies for moving forward.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** Potential assistance sponsors submit proposals for scope of service, identifying key questions the teams should address. ULI staff determine suitability of request for an advisory service assignment and work out details with sponsors. No deadlines; fees in the \$3,000-\$115,000 range, depending on the extent of work. Volunteer experts contribute their time; ULI pays their travel expenses.

**Website:** [www.uli.org](http://www.uli.org)

**Contact:** Thomas Eitler  
Director, Advisory Services Program  
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Teitler@uli.org

## **U.S. EPA's Development, Community and Environment Division (DCED)**

**Program(s) and Assistance Focus:** Smart Growth Implementation Assistance.  
Focus on smart growth implementation in diverse settings.

**Service Overview:** The DCED smart growth program provides contractor support to selected localities, states, and nonprofit organizations for code and policy review, design guidance, community workshops, public education, and other capacity-building projects. The contractor teams offer in-depth experience in a variety of smart growth-related fields.

**Selection Process, Deadline and Cost:** In almost all instances, DCED issues a Request for Applications (RFA) that lists selection criteria and sets a deadline. No fees charged, but matching funds are encouraged.

**Website:** [www.epa.gov/smartgrowth](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth)

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