



**Housing Equity and Opportunity Strategy
for the Portland Metropolitan Region**

DECLARATION OF COOPERATION
8/6/10

Our Intent

The Portland metropolitan region has long been a national leader in developing and implementing innovative approaches to land use and transportation planning, responsible resource use and climate protection. After investing decades of work building healthy human and natural communities, our region is widely viewed as one of the most livable places in the country.

Yet we also know that the exceptional quality of life for which our region is known is not equitably shared by all who live here, especially members of low-income communities and communities of color. We cannot succeed as a region unless all of our fellow residents have the opportunity to share equitably in the livability we have worked so hard to create and to live in communities that nourish their potential.

This Declaration of Cooperation signals the formation of a consortium of public and community based stakeholders for the purpose of working together to seek a grant under the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) "Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program" to support development and implementation of a Housing Equity and Opportunity Strategy for the Portland metropolitan region. The basic approach outlined in this Declaration of Cooperation is:

1. To involve local governments, housing authorities, community-based organizations and the private sector in collaboratively developing an integrated regional plan for housing equity and opportunity in the Portland metropolitan region. This will include testing the concepts included in the plan through the development of several pilot projects that model targeted and restorative investment.
2. To link affordable housing investments in the region to available and planned public services and infrastructure, such as employment opportunities, health care, transportation, education, and recreation.
3. To review the adequacy and availability of public services to *existing* market or assisted low-cost housing in the region, and to help local governments evaluate the equity of current public service distribution in the region.

To build on these efforts, additional funding is being sought through HUD's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program, which is part of The Partnership for Sustainable Communities established jointly by the US Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Transportation (DOT) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

While this is not a binding legal contract, this Declaration of Cooperation constitutes a statement of the good faith and commitment of the undersigned parties, and represents a public commitment to think and lead in new ways and to work in new partnerships, with equity as a core goal, to develop consensus-based strategies that address the needs of the region as a whole, to strive to identify opportunities and solutions whenever possible, to contribute assistance and support within resource limits as identified in the grant application, and to collaborate with other consortium members in promoting the successful implementation of the agreed-upon strategies. Within 120 days of the award of the grant, the parties to this agreement will need to execute specific contracts to carry out tasks funded through the grant and to refine roles and responsibilities for the conduct of the grant work program.

Intended Outcomes

The development and implementation of a Housing Equity and Opportunity Strategy for the Portland metropolitan region builds on the region's reputation and practice of multi-disciplinary planning, including forty years of integrating environmental protection, land use and transportation, and fits the objectives of HUD's Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. This federal grant program provides an opportunity for the region to build on our success in land use and livability policy by creating new partnerships, policies and investments that promote equity and opportunity for all regional residents.

The Housing Equity and Opportunity Strategy will be an implementation plan. It will provide a road map for investment in places, people and processes. The Strategy will include:

- Thorough analysis and understanding about the current status of our region with respect to equity and opportunity utilizing current data and reports of the parties and other community verified sources;
- Implementation strategies that cross fields and sectors and provide integrated approaches to investment to insure that we achieve positive triple bottom line results (Equity, Economy, Environment);
- Development of opportunity maps to guide strategies and inform investments;
- Development of a tool to assess the equity impact of investments;
- Investment in effective individual, organizational and community capacity to promote democratic ideals and civic engagement in the creation of communities of opportunity; and
- Strategies to evaluate outcomes resulting from policies and investments across income, race/ethnicity and geography, and systems to track progress towards goals over time and inform future decision-making.

The Consortium's grant application is intended to result in five basic outcomes:

- **Housing Equity and Opportunity Strategy** – With the leadership of regional housing development partners, including community-based organizations, housing authorities, local government public service and infrastructure providers, and the private sector, this grant will develop a strategic plan to coordinate and integrate equitable access to affordable housing, jobs and workforce training, high-quality public transportation and other critical public services and facilities for the Metro region. This regional plan will *not* diminish or take away any vested authority of local jurisdictions or non-profit organizations, but will guide local decisions through a regional plan that has been collaboratively developed.
- **Linkage, leverage and integration** – This Housing Equity and Opportunity Strategy will create linkage between federal, state, regional, local non-profit and private investments in housing, transportation, education, and other service planning in order to promote greater equity and opportunity for all regional residents. In so doing, it will also provide opportunities to leverage public investments in affordable housing with other public investments in the region. The results of the Housing Equity and Opportunity Strategy

will provide input to various implementation programs throughout the region, including development of Metro's Community Investment Strategy (an over-arching effort to implement the region's long-term vision and achieve regionally agreed-upon outcomes through a broad range of investments).

- **An on-going governance structure** – While this consortium of regional partners is initially designed to *develop* the Housing Equity and Opportunity Strategy, the intent is to have the consortium develop a governance structure to oversee the implementation of regional housing and equity measures on an on-going basis.
- **Increased capacity of community-based organizations to participate in the consortium** – Many communities are underserved, or their community-based organizations lack the staffing capacity to engage their constituencies and participate effectively in this collaborative effort. Grant funding will be used to involve community based organizations (as well as local governments) in specific tasks and decision-making related to the regional housing strategy with the objective of having increased capacity and capability to engage in decision-making beyond the duration of the grant.
- **A framework for monitoring and measuring performance over time** – The consortium will develop and implement indicators to track progress and guide future implementation actions and will integrate with the Regional Indicators project at Portland State University.

Governance

- A Steering Committee, consisting of the signers of this document, will provide a forum for decision-making on all policy matters involved in implementation of the grant and development of the regional Housing Equity and Opportunity Strategy. The Steering Committee shall determine the consortium's policy direction and establish procedures for allocating resources and grant funds. Membership in the Consortium and Steering Committee will expand upon receipt of the grant to include organizations representative of the full diversity of the region and to include additional local governments, the private sector and service providers such as workforce training, education, health care providers, climate policy, arts & culture, etc.
- A Budget Committee will be established consisting of a representative group of fiscal officers of the Steering Committee organizations. It shall ensure all federal, state, and local budget, accounting and finance rules are followed and oversee disbursement of funds, including paying of consultants, pursuant to the Cooperative Agreement and in accordance with Steering Committee's decision regarding allocation of resources and grant funds.

- A Technical Advisory Committee will oversee technical work related to the plan and make recommendations, as assigned by the Steering Committee. The Technical Advisory Committee will ensure integration with PSU's Community Data Commons and the Regional Indicators Project.
- An Outreach Advisory Committee will oversee and coordinate outreach to stakeholders and the public.
- Facilitation and staff support for the Consortium and Steering Committee meetings shall be provided by the National Policy Consensus Center. Additional support will be provided by staff of consortium members.
- The Steering Committee will operate on a consensus-seeking basis. Members of the consortium agree to work with each other in a collaborative manner that develops trust and brings forward interests to be addressed in a supportive manner.
- The "Lead Applicant" of the Consortium will be Metro, with the following authority and responsibilities:
 - Authority to act as the Consortium's representative when dealing with HUD on behalf of all members of the Consortium;
 - Responsibility for submitting the Grant Application and executing a Cooperative Grant Agreement if awarded;
 - Fiscal and administrative responsibility for the Grant on behalf of the Consortium.

Declaration of Cooperation

We, the undersigned government organizations, agree to join this Consortium to seek a HUD grant in our capacity as a public entity responsible for setting policy and funding and implementing infrastructure, programs and services intended to equitably benefit the public.

Metro



David Bragdon, Council President

City of Portland



Sam Adams, Mayor

Multnomah County



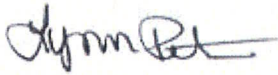
Jeff Cogen, Chair

Washington Co. and Washington Co.
Housing Authority



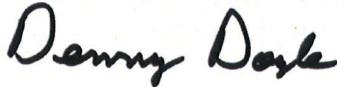
Tom Brian, Chair

Clackamas Co. and Clackamas Co.
Housing Authority



Lynn Peterson, Chair

City of Beaverton
(as a direct CDBG recipient)



Denny Doyle, Mayor

Oregon Housing and Community Services



Victor Merced, Director

Southwest Washington
Regional Transportation Council



Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director

City of Vancouver



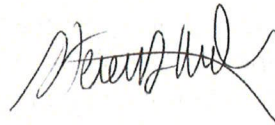
Patrick McDonnell, City Manager

Portland Housing Bureau



Nick Fish, Commissioner

Housing Authority of Portland



Steve Rudman, Executive Director

TriMet




Neil McFarlane, General Manager

Portland State University



Wim Wiewel, President

Vancouver Housing Authority



Roy Johnson, Executive Director

We, the undersigned non-government organizations, agree to join this consortium in our capacity as providers of housing and other services to people and communities, and who have needs for services that equitably enhance their access to opportunity, and that are typically underrepresented in public decision-making.

Fair Housing Council of Oregon



Moley Goode, Executive Director

Urban League of Portland



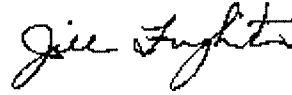
Marcus Mundy, President and CEO

Housing Organizations of Color Coalition



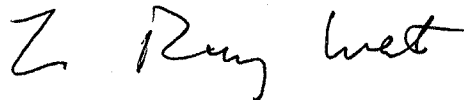
Maxine Fitzpatrick, Chair

Coalition for a Livable Future



Jill Fuglister, Co-Executive Director

Community Housing Fund



Ramsay Weit, Executive Director

Oregon Opportunity Network



Cathey Briggs, Executive Director

Bienestar



Karen Shawcross, Executive Director

Meyer Memorial Trust



Doug Stamm, Chief Executive Officer