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HUD Announces Winning Consortium to Operate the Strong Cities, Strong Communities National Resource Network

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I am pleased to announce that HUD has selected a consortium that includes Enterprise Community Partners, Public Financial Management (PFM), HR&A Advisors, Inc., NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, and the International City/County Management Association, Inc., to run and operate the *Strong Cities, Strong Communities* National Resource Network (SC2 Network). The SC2 Network, funded with HUD technical assistance resources, will provide communities with targeted technical assistance to help support locally identified priorities for economic growth and job creation.

The recent economic recession left many communities throughout the country struggling with ways in which to become economically competitive again. Through the *Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) Initiative*, this administration has been partnering with cities that have been suffering from disinvestment and a wide range of socio-economic factors to become more economically viable and help create jobs.

Just last week, the Administration released the first *SC2 Annual Report*, which details the accomplishments of the initiative, to date. The report highlights that many of these communities are coming back and stronger than ever, and their economic resurgence is being led by policies that encourage sharing information, best practices, experiences, and resources with other cities and regions. Learning from those experiences, through SC2, HUD has been working to create a SC2 Network which will serve as a "one-stop" shop for economically distressed communities to access a wide array of short-term technical assistance.

The goals of the SC2 Network are to:

- Provide a single portal for economically distressed communities to access a wide array of short-term technical assistance (both operational and programmatic);
- Develop a one-stop clearinghouse of federal, state, and local technical assistance programs that will be used to directly connect distressed communities to programs that are tailored to address their economic challenges;
- Deliver more intensive technical assistance to a limited number of economically distressed communities to support local priorities, such as improving the municipality's credit rating, developing an economic development strategy, or updating workforce strategies to support small business development;
- Disseminate best practices, innovative solutions, and policy lessons across a range of organizations and decision-makers that can help shape or inform economic development, strategic planning, and program efforts; and
- Establish local resource networks and new public-private partnerships that will bring together cross-sector leadership and leverage existing community assets to help strengthen communities.

We look forward to working with the SC2 Network winning consortium to provide assistance to communities and cities throughout the country; and fostering a spirit of cooperation and sharing that helps improve local economic competitiveness and bring jobs and make a positive, long lasting impact in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.



This entry was posted in [Strong Cities Strong Communities](#) and tagged [SC2](#), [SC2 annual report](#), [SC2 Network](#), [Strong Cities Strong Communities](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

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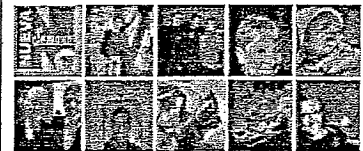


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Passion White found herself in a women's shelter while her children were living with other family members. She was working full-time but she still couldn't make ends meet. White found affordable housing at Compton Apartments.
<http://ow.ly/sTbSK>

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Fact Sheet

The National Resource Network: New Solutions for Cities

National Resource Network Overview:

The National Resource Network (SC2 Network), a core component of the Obama Administration's Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) initiative, will develop and deliver innovative solutions to American cities to help them address their toughest economic challenges. The SC2 Network will work with local leaders to identify practical solutions, sharing real-world expertise and best practices, and will help cities develop the tools and strategies they need to grow their economies and more effectively use existing federal investments.

National Resource Network Background:

Funded by \$10 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the SC2 Network is a new program that leverages the expertise, partnerships, and resources of the government and private sectors to help cities comprehensively tackle their most pressing challenges by providing them with customized tools and advice to strengthen their economic competitiveness.

In May 2013, HUD selected a consortium of leading experts and practitioners representing the public and private sectors to develop the SC2 Network. The consortium consists of Enterprise Community Partners, Public Financial Management, HR&A Advisors, New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, and the International City/County Management Association. In addition, the Urban Institute is a key partner. The consortium will raise an additional \$10 million over three years from foundations, corporate funders, and local governments to maximize and support the SC2 Network's federal investment.

Impacts of the SC2 Network:

In the next three years, the SC2 Network will help 80 - 100 of the country's most economically challenged cities identify and implement new solutions that facilitate their economic recovery and growth. The SC2 Network will provide four core services:

- **Direct Assistance:** the SC2 Network will deliver direct assistance to individual cities that will be provided with a team of experts that will work side-by-side with a city for up to 12 months. Teams will assess local needs, provide recommendations, and help cities identify and execute on strategies that align with their economic recovery. Teams also will work with cities to identify potential funding from, and strategic partnerships with foundations, nonprofits and local businesses to help them achieve their economic goals.
- **Peer Networks:** the SC2 Network will create and facilitate peer networks comprised of city leaders, policymakers and expert practitioners who are developing innovative and real-world solutions that can be shared and disseminated publically to promote

innovation, collaboration, and leadership development. The Network will deliver new opportunities for local leaders to network with and learn from each other through new media and conventional convening approaches. It will also support the development of "local resource networks" within select cities, which will deepen the benefits of peer learning and cross-sector collaborations.

- **Share Best Practices:** the SC2 Network will develop and share best practices that can benefit any city, whether or not they receive direct assistance. Cities receiving direct assistance will serve as laboratories for innovation and learning that will also inform federal policies and programs. The Network also will produce real time research and tools on what works and serve as a national "311" resource center for cities.
- **One-Stop Online Clearinghouse:** The SC2 Network will develop a one-stop online clearinghouse of federal, state, and local resources and programs that will be used to directly connect cities to programs that are tailored to address their economic challenges.

How the SC2 Network will Function

The NRN will officially launch in the first quarter of 2014 with a joint announcement by the Obama Administration and the consortium. The launch announcement will have 2 major components:

- A group of 5 – 8 cities that will receive assessments and direct technical assistance from the Network. These cities have been determined by the NRN and HUD based on factors related to their need and readiness.
- The NRN website, with the initial on-line infrastructure for engaging with experts on fiscal, operational, and economic challenges, and initial tools and resources in the on-line clearinghouse.

The NRN anticipates selecting additional groups of cities for technical assistance in the second and third quarters of 2014. All cities that are selected for direct assistance will receive an assessment of their needs that will comprehensively evaluate issues that include, but are not limited to, economic development, housing, land use, infrastructure, crime, schools, budget and city operations, including fiscal and budgetary health. Based on these assessments, cities will receive customized solutions and strategies that could include the following examples:

- Facilitating the development of a downtown plan to improve economic development opportunities;
- Training local governments and key nonprofits that are working to revitalize the local economy;
- Creating a comprehensive economic development strategy to help a city map out a long-term plan for economic recovery and growth;
- Developing a multi-year financial plan or operational efficiency study to help cities prioritize their long- and short-term needs.

Additional Information on SC2 Network Consortium Members:

- **Enterprise Community Partners.** For more than 30 years, Enterprise has introduced solutions through public-private partnerships with financial institutions, governments, community organizations and other partners that share the vision that one day, every person will have an affordable home in a vibrant community.
- **Public Financial Management.** The PFM Group of companies is a national leader in providing independent financial advice as well as investment advisory, management, and consulting services to local, state, and regional government and non-profit clients. PFM helps clients meet their financial challenges with a broad array of products, backed by unquestioned professionalism and outstanding service.
- **HR&A Advisors.** HR&A is an industry-leading real estate, economic development and public policy consulting firm. HR&A has 30 years' experience working with cities across the country to create economic growth through rigorous analysis, hands-on assistance and creative strategies that tap local assets.
- **The Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University (NYU).** NYU Wagner has a long and deep commitment to addressing and improving the most challenging social issues and policies. Since 1938, NYU Wagner has been educating and preparing the world's future public service leaders, and the accomplished faculty have been conducting research that changes the way people frame, understand, analyze, and act on issues of public importance. NYU Wagner is home to nationally-recognized research centers, including the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management, the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy, and the Institute for Education and Social Policy.
- **International City/County Management Association (ICMA).** ICMA creates excellence in local governance by developing and fostering professional local government management worldwide. The organization provides technical and management assistance, training, and information resources in the areas of performance measurement, ethics education and training, community and economic development, environmental management, technology, and other topics to its members and the broader local government community.

In addition to the lead entities listed above, the SC2 Network will engage the expertise of other national experts to ensure the best match between leading practitioners and local needs.