



CONNECT Consortium

HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Summary

The Challenge

- There are people throughout our region that are struggling with job losses and communities, small and large, challenged by the loss of businesses and industry.
- At the same we face the challenge of how we continue to grow and expand to meet the needs of a regional population is expected to double in the next 20 years.
- It's the job of our regional and local government, working together with businesses, non-profits and the citizens of this region to find solutions to these challenges.

Moving Together as a Region

- As a region we have begun a process to come together to address the needs of growing the economy and jobs, controlling cost of government and improving quality of life, the important values adopted in our region's CONNECT Vision.
- By leveraging nearly \$5 million of federal HUD Sustainability grant funds with more than \$3 million private and public sector resources, we have begun a process extending past the life of the grant, to create a sustainable and resilient region for us, for our children and grandchildren.

The Process

- This grant is about working collaboratively with local, state and federal agencies with business and industry, non-profits and our residents to develop a blueprint for our future. Our region is “hardwiring” business and industry into our planning process by identifying what they need to grow and prosper and what they see as barriers to growth into this planning process.
- Over 100 private and public sector partners have committed to and already begun work on the constructing the process that will improve our competitiveness by connecting housing, jobs, transportation, education and training, while enhancing the quality of life and securing a healthy environment for our future. We look to increase the size of the consortium now that the grant has been awarded.
- Our region has established effective private-public partnerships to engage the full diversity of our region in growing our region in a sustainable and resilient manner.
- Over the next two years we will be going out to businesses and industry as well as communities and citizens throughout the region to engage them in this process. We will use private-public partnerships that exist to ensure we engage the full diversity of our region. .
- We appreciate the opportunity and the resources that have been provided to us to for this important initiative. For more information, please visit www.centralina.org.