



Quality Communities NEWS

Winter 2004
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George E. Pataki
Governor

THE QUALITY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE demonstrates New York State's commitment to working with local government leaders to find smart, innovative solutions to strengthen our economy, improve the quality of our natural environment and enhance the livability of the place we call "home."

Lt. Governor Donohue Honored by APA New York Upstate Chapter

Every year, the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) recognizes outstanding achievement that advances the art and science of planning. At the 2003 Annual Conference held in Saratoga Springs, October 23, awards were given in eight categories. According to APA Chapter leadership, "Each plan, project and individual honored with an award has made a significant contribution toward improving the quality of life for people throughout Upstate New York."

This year, Lieutenant Governor Mary O. Donohue received a Distinguished Leadership award for her work on New York's Quality Communities initiative. The Lt. Governor was appointed by the Governor to chair a Task Force to study balanced growth. The Task Force and its Advisory Committee of government

representatives, and business and advocacy group leaders, was directed by the Lt. Governor to seek strategies "not only to curb sprawl but to enable localities to implement plans that fulfill community visions and respect the needs of the environment and neighboring communities."

The resulting report, *State and Local Governments Partnering for a Better New York*, identifies 41 recommendations designed to improve quality of life. The report also provides a framework for enhanced cooperation among various levels of government in an effort to promote economic growth, sensible community planning and sound environmental policies in communities across the State.

Today, the Lt. Governor chairs the Quality Communities Interagency Working Group, comprised of 25 State agen-



APA Chapter President Mike Krasner presents Lt. Governor Mary O. Donohue with the Distinguished Leadership Award.

cies joining forces to implement Quality Communities principles and recommendations.

First Call for Nominations 2004 NYS Governor's Quality Communities Awards for Excellence

These awards recognize municipalities, neighborhoods, organizations and citizens who have embraced the principles of Quality Communities and improved the quality of life in their hometowns and New York State. Awards will be presented at the "QC²+SG₂₀₀₄" Quality Communities-Quality Coasts and Smart Growth Conference May 25-26, 2004. For more information and nominating forms please call 518-486-9888 or email cmurphy@dos.state.ny.us.

The QC²+SG₂₀₀₄ Conference will take an in-depth look at topics related to smart growth and downtown revitalization and related subjects like land and water planning; economic revitalization; environment and development; technology; and the process for bringing people and organizations together to create and sustain a vision. Information and updates are available at www.dos.state.ny.us.

Empire State Plaza Convention Center
Albany, NY

May 25 & 26, 2004

SAVE THESE DATES!

State and Nonprofit Partnership Yields New Collaborative Conference

Two of the most respected and well attended conferences held in Albany over recent years have been the Quality Communities-Quality Coasts Conferences organized by the NYS Department of State and the Smart Growth Conference presented by National Audubon Society of New York State. This spring, a union of these events (QC²+SG₂₀₀₄) will be held at Empire State Plaza in Albany on May 25 and 26.

"Combining our efforts for a Quality Communities Conference makes common sense," states David J. Miller, Executive Director of National Audubon of New York State. "It is another exciting example of public-private partnerships."

Audubon also chairs the Smart Growth Working Group which represents a wide variety of interests – homebuilders, conservationists, planners, academics, environmentalists, farmers, and transportation advocates. While the joint conference is a new partnering endeavor, many of the organizations from the Smart Growth Working Group served as Advisory Board Members during the deliberations of the Quality Communities Task Force in 2000-2001, and have supported efforts to implement the QC/Smart Growth principles ever since. (See Clifton Park story, page 3 for just one exceptional model.)

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Quality Communities

is a publication of the
NYS Department of State.

Randy A. Daniels
Secretary of State

For information or a CD-ROM of the Quality Communities Report, *State and Local Governments Partnering for a Better New York*, call 518-473-3355. The report is available at www.dos.state.ny.us/qc.

Member agencies of the Quality Communities Working Group are dedicated to assisting local governments in implementing effective land development, preservation and rehabilitation strategies that promote both economic vitality and environmental protection.

Quality Communities Interagency Working Group Members

Lt. Governor Mary O. Donohue, Chair
Secretary of State **Randy A. Daniels**,
Vice Chair

Commissioner Nathan L. Rudgers
NYS Department of Agriculture
and Markets

Chairman Ross Whaley
Adirondack Park Agency

Director Robert Bulman
NYS Canal Corporation

Commissioner Erin Crotty
NYS Department of Environmental
Conservation

Commissioner Judith Calogero
NYS Division of Housing and
Community Renewal

Director Carole Stone
NYS Division of Budget

Commissioner Antonia Novello
NYS Department of Health

Commissioner Linda Angello
NYS Department of Labor

Commissioner Joseph H. Boardman
NYS Department of Transportation

President Thomas J. Kelly
NYS Environmental Facilities Corp.

Chairman Charles Gargano
NYS Empire State Development

Director Daniel D. Hogan
Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform

Executive Director Carmella Mantello
Hudson River Valley Greenway Council

President and CEO Stephen Hunt
Housing Finance Agency

President Peter R. Smith
NYS Energy Research & Development
Authority

Chief Information Officer
James T. Dillon

Commissioner Kenneth J. Ringler, Jr.
NYS Office of General Services

Commissioner Bernadette Castro
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic
Preservation

Executive Director Thomas Griffen
NYS Office of Real Property Services

Chairman Louis Ciminelli
NY Power Authority

Director Glen King
Governor's Office for Small Cities

Chancellor Robert King
State University of New York

Commissioner Andrew S. Eristoff
NYS Department of Taxation and Finance

Chairman John L. Buono
NYS Thruway Authority

Governor Pataki Signs Landmark Environmental Legislation

On October 7, 2003, Governor George E. Pataki signed legislation that will refinance and reform the State's Superfund Program and create a new brownfield program to foster the cleanup of thousands of contaminated properties, while encouraging new investment and redevelopment of these sites across New York State. This also advances Recommendation #20 of the Quality Communities Task Force Report: *"To enhance incentives for brownfields...remediation to encourage development of land which is already developed and served by infrastructure."*



Brownfield Cleanup

The new measures will allow municipalities to take advantage of opportunities for redevelopment, job creation, and overall economic growth while protecting public health by removing contamination from their communities. The comprehensive legislation will encourage private investment through liability reform, tax incentives, and a predictable process for cleaning up and redeveloping brownfields. The clear standards for cleanup that have been established, combined with new incentives to clean up these properties, will result in the revitalization of brownfield sites throughout the State.

Brownfields often pose environmental and public health threats, as well as legal and financial burdens on communities. Left vacant, contaminated sites often threaten the economic viability of adjoining properties. The new legislation:

- **Provides Long-Term Funding**
Authorizes up to \$135 million to be financed with a combination of bond funds, industry fees, General Fund dollars and other sources.

- **Accelerates Brownfield Cleanup & Redevelopment**

Establishes a comprehensive package of tax credits to offset costs associated with real property taxes, site preparation, water treatment expenses, and property improvements.

- **Expands Sites Eligible for Cleanup under the State Superfund Program**

Allows for the cleanup of hazardous substance sites which have been excluded from the Superfund program for 20 years.

- **Improves the Municipal Environmental Restoration Program**

Increases the State grant to municipalities from 75 percent of eligible costs to 90 percent of on-site costs and 100 percent of off-site costs and allows the municipality to leverage other funds.

- **Provides Brownfield Area Planning Opportunities**

Grants will be available to municipalities and community-based organizations to strategically plan for the redevelopment of brownfields within targeted urban areas.

- **Expands Public Participation**

Technical Assistance Grants will be made available to community-based organizations to assist in evaluation of data for eligible significant threat sites.

- **Reforms Liability Scheme**

Relief is provided to municipalities, lenders, and innocent third parties under the Superfund Program, while continuing to hold the polluter responsible for the cleanup.

Since 1986, the State Superfund has provided \$1.2 billion for cleanup of more than 800 contaminated sites across New York State. However, the State Superfund, funded by the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act, was fully allocated as of March 31, 2001. The Department of Environmental Conservation estimates that at least an additional 800 Superfund sites are still in need of investigation or remediation.

The Quality Communities' Regional Spotlight...

Clifton Park Sets its Goal:

Preserve 1,800 Acres in Five Years

After more than two years of the most extensive public involvement and community outreach program for open space preservation in the Capital Region, the Town of Clifton Park has adopted its Open Space Plan. The plan was created through a committee of diverse stakeholders and looked at developing a future blueprint for the town.

The process was led by Audubon New York, the Friends of Clifton Park Open Space, the Town and other organizations and was augmented by the professional services of Behan Associates.

The open space concept map, created as part of the more than 100-page plan, identifies critical natural areas, wildlife habitats, and watersheds; farmland protection areas; and current and future recreational parks, potential trail systems

and wildlife corridors. The plan also establishes an aggressive goal of protecting up to 1,800 acres of open space in the first five years of the plan's implementation. At this writing, several hundred acres already have been acquired through a combination of Town and State grant funds.

To help make the plan more easily accessible to residents, a well-illustrated 4-page summary was widely distributed. Five specific actions for implementation were prominently featured:

- 1) Make a local financial commitment
- 2) Hire an open space project coordinator
- 3) Actively seek all available outside... grants



Clifton Park residents map important open space resources during a public charrette workshop last year.

- 4) Strengthen public and private partnerships...
- 5) Partner with developers to promote ...conservation-based design for new development

The Open Space Committee was well led by Town residents Jim Romano of Niagara Mohawk and David Miller, Executive Director of Audubon New York.

Sullivan County Hosts Main Street Institute



Participants in the Main Street Institute explored Liberty, NY as their living laboratory. The new Theater Café project demonstrates how the arts can draw folks back downtown.

More than 120 people gathered in the Museum on the Village of Liberty's Main Street for a day-long series of training workshops focused on downtown revitalization. The November 10th "Main Street Institute in the Catskills" was co-sponsored by the New York Main Street Alliance, Sullivan County Planning Department, New York State Department of State, and Cornell University's Community and Rural Development Institute (CaRDI).

Business owners, chamber of commerce representatives,

community volunteers and officials attended sessions running the gamut from historic preservation to visioning techniques, design standards to small business development, and from grant writing to the role of arts and cultural activities.

A program of Cornell's CaRDI, The New York Main Street Alliance is a statewide network of organizations dedicated to community center revitalization and the creation of vibrant places for people to live, work, and play. For information about NYMSA's technical assistance to Main Street projects, contact Tim Cullenen at (607) 254-4688, or send email to tuc26@cornell.edu.

Wastewater Management is a QC Strategy in Orange County

On October 1, 2003, more than 175 people attended Orange County's program on "Wastewater Management Options for Smart Growth" in Goshen, NY. The focus of the one-day program was on decentralized wastewater management solutions and how they might implement Orange County's Comprehensive Plan. In April 2003, Orange County adopted its comprehensive plan "Strategies for Quality Communities." Orange County, within an hour's drive of New York City, experienced an 86% popula-

tion gain from 1960-2000, while many of its cities and villages struggled. Some even saw modest population declines in the last decade.

The County has designated Priority Growth Areas where it hopes to encourage growth to enhance village life while maintaining the open space character of its rural lands. Decentralized solutions to wastewater management will play



Rick Hoffman, Department of State Associate Counsel, leads a panel of experts in discussion of "Effective Management of Decentralized Wastewater Systems."

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Shines on the Hudson Valley

Greenway Communities Triple in 3 Years

In early November, the Town of New Castle (Westchester County) became the two hundredth municipality to pass a resolution to become a designated Hudson River Valley Greenway Community. The Village of Harri-man (Orange) became the 201st soon after. This marks a major milestone for the Greenway which is a voluntary State program established in 1991. Of the 259 eligible communities within the State designated Greenway area, more than 140 have joined since 2000.

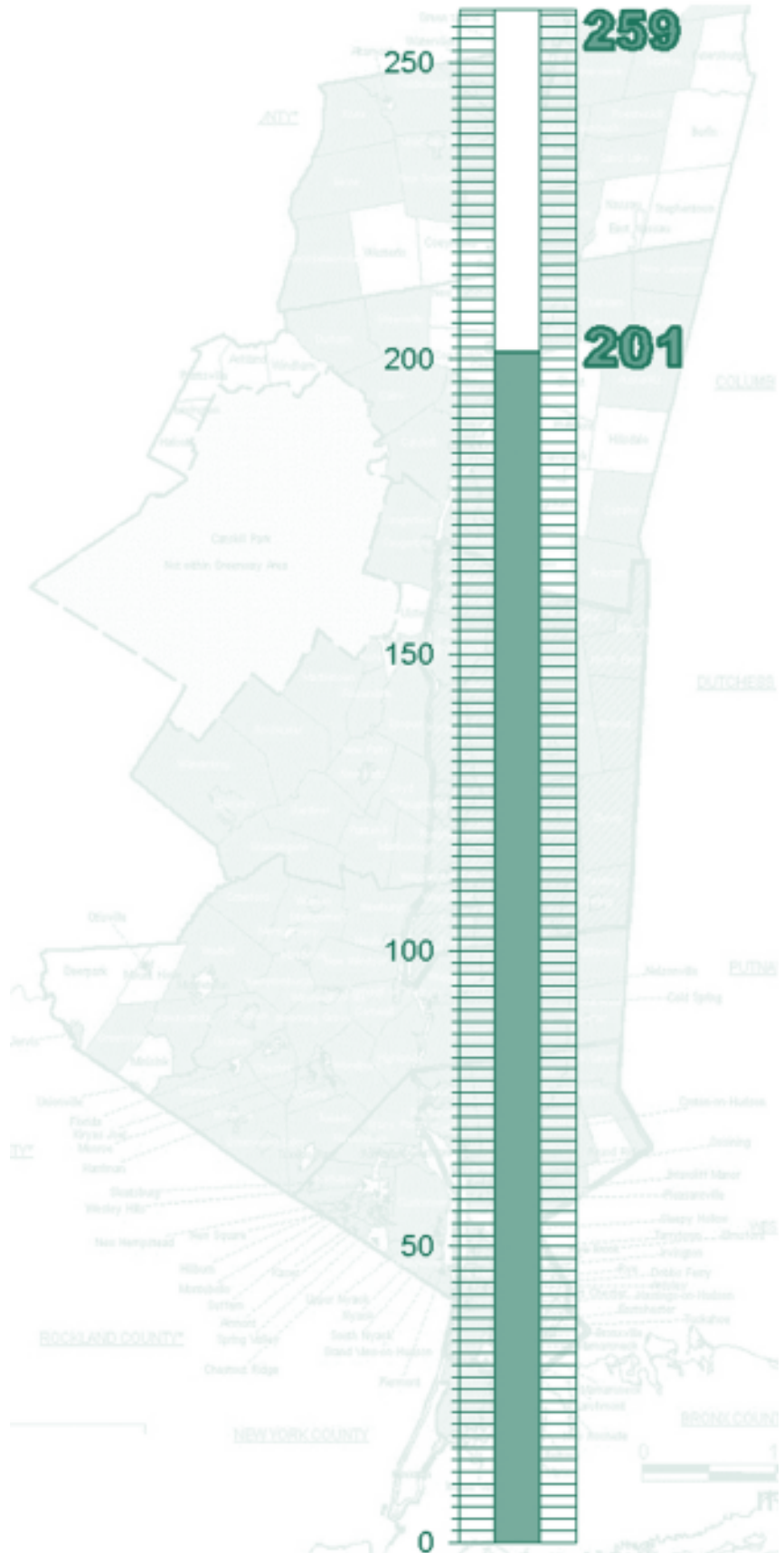
“Since its inception, the Greenway has effectively provided grassroots assistance to the towns and villages of the Hudson Valley, helping them achieve an improved quality of life for New Yorkers while balancing the need for economic growth,” said Governor George E. Pataki.

The first step in local community participation involves the passage of a resolution by the local governing body in support of the five “Greenway Criteria.” These include: regional planning; economic development; public access; natural and cultural resource protection; and heritage and environmental education. The Greenway has actively encouraged initiatives related to both the Greenway Criteria and the Quality Communities Principles by providing technical assistance and grants for planning, capital projects, and water and land-based trails.

“This accomplishment points to the success of the Greenway program,” Greenway Council and Acting Greenway Conservancy Executive Director Carmella Mantello stated. “The Greenway remains committed to building productive working relationships among its member municipalities, State agencies, and non-profits to promote a regional vision for the Hudson Valley while respecting municipal home rule.”

Orange County *Continued from Page 3*
 a role in controlling the County’s desired pattern of growth and development. For more information about Orange County planning initiatives, contact Planning Commissioner David Church 845-291-2318.

In the best tradition of Quality Communities, this county-sponsored program brought together local and State agencies including the Departments of Environmental Conservation, Health and State. If you wish to learn more about QC-related training opportunities in your area, please call the Department of State’s Local Government Helpline at 1-800-367-8488.



Regionalism and QC Catch On: The Hudson River Valley has become a model of *voluntary* intermunicipal cooperation and planning. Participation in the Greenway is one great measure of this success. *QC News* looks forward to spotlighting other regions of the State in future issues.

Statewide Teleconference Promotes Co-Funding Initiative

Lt. Governor Donohue opens presentation broadcast around the State



Local, State and Federal officials participated in the Teleconference. (Left to Right) EFC President Tom Kelly, Town of Jasper Supervisor Lucille Kernan, Small Cities Director Glen King and USDA State Director Patrick Brennan.

On October 22, Lt. Governor Mary Donohue participated in a teleconference that was broadcast to more than 47 sites around New York State from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. The teleconference was the first in a Partnership Series between Governor Pataki's Quality Communities

Initiative and Comptroller Alan Hevesi, and focused on finding funds for public water and sewer projects.

The Lt. Governor introduced the presentation, which included several panelists who discussed the New York State Water & Sewer Co-funding Initiative, and answered questions faxed or phoned in from attendees at the teleconference sites. Each panelist discussed one of the participating funding programs. A Co-funding case study was presented featuring the Town of Jasper, which highlighted the processes the town undertook to obtain funding.

Panelists included: Tom Kelly, President, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation; Mike Burke, Director, Bureau of Water Supply Protection, Department of Health; Patrick Brennan, State Direc-

tor, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development; Glen King, Director, Governor's Office for Small Cities; and Lucille Kernan, Supervisor, Town of Jasper (Steuben County). Office of State Comptroller staff were also on hand to talk about water district formation and the Oil Spill Fund. An expert audience of 15 staff members from the Co-funding agencies was also on hand for the teleconference as an added source of information during the question and answer period.

An estimated 400 people attended the teleconference, which was broadcast across the State from NY Network studio at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Those attending included county, city, town and village elected and appointed officials such as chief executive officers, chief fiscal officers, superintendents of public works, municipal attorneys, engineers, and consultants.

Q. How do you pronounce "Photovoltaics?"

A. Solar Electric

Photovoltaic or PV technology converts sunlight directly and cleanly into electricity. PV cells are connected to each other to create larger modules that can be mounted on a roof, integrated into building materials, or set up as free standing units on the ground.

From builders, contractors, PV installers and electricians to realtors, bankers, farmers and educators, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is working closely with a wide range of groups to develop programs and informational tools to develop a sustainable PV market and infrastructure in New York State. This is just one of many steps the State and its local partners are taking to insure that by 2013, 25% of energy retailed in New York will be generated from renewable resources.

NYSERDA currently has several financial incentive programs to bring down the cost of PV by 40-70% for almost every installation. NYSEDA and Clean Power Research have collaborated to develop an Estimator to help consumers evaluate the costs and benefits of purchasing a PV system. The Estimator automatically includes incentives and State and federal tax credits in its analysis and can be used to evaluate all types of applications. The Clean Power Estimator and NYSEDA's solar publications are available online at www.nyserda.org/energyresources/photovoltaics.html.

Under the Energy Star® Labeled Home PV Demonstration Project, NYSEDA, the National Association of Home Builders and Steven Winters Associates are developing a program and awareness campaign about the benefits of PV sys-

tems. As part of this project, NYSEDA is providing funding for 12 Energy Star labeled model homes across the State – all equipped with a PV system.

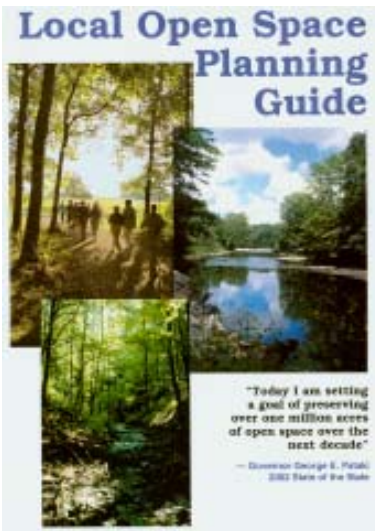
Through its School Power Naturally Programsm, NYSEDA is demonstrating PV technology at 50 schools throughout New York. A regents-based curriculum and outreach program also are in the works to help educate students about the benefits of solar energy. For information on this program go to www.schoolpowernaturally.org.



New PV technology doesn't detract from the charm of traditional architecture.

New York State Department of State
Office of Local Government and Community Services
41 State Street
Albany NY 12231-0001

Local Open Space Planning Guide On-Line and Now On-Press



“The new *Local Open Space Planning Guide* will provide information that local officials, groups and individuals can use to develop and implement effective conservation programs. It will serve as a quick and easy reference guide with ideas on how to protect important resources such as farmland, forested lands, wetlands and natural areas that are the foundation of a strong quality community.” That’s what Governor

George Pataki had to say about this new *Guide* when it went on-line at www.dos.state.ny.us last spring. Now, by popular demand, copies of the 76-page *Guide* are being printed and mailed to every municipality in the State.

Developed by the Departments of State and Environmental Conservation, in collaboration with the Hudson River Valley Greenway, the Department of Agriculture and Markets and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the *Guide* recognizes the important role of local governments and organizations in promoting land conservation. The ideas and strategies presented in the *Guide* are voluntary,

with recommendations designed to assist in the development or refinements of a local open space plan. Examples of community projects that have been highly successful are included.

Consistent with Quality Communities Principles as well as the Governor’s initiative to preserve an additional million acres during the next decade, the *Guide* complements State efforts to work in partnership with local governments and citizens to preserve New York’s rich outdoor heritage and diverse open space resources.

For additional copies, call 518-473-3355 or mail QC@dos.state.ny.us.

Printing of this newsletter and the *Local Open Space Planning Guide* was made possible in part through a grant from the Governor’s Office for Small Cities.

Collaborative Conference

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Lieutenant Governor Mary O. Donohue applauded the new collaboration, “Audubon and the Smart Growth Working Group have been loyal and regular contributors to the Quality Communities initiative from the beginning. They helped to frame many of our guiding QC principles as well as the set of 41 recommendations being implemented today.” In fact, QC Recommendation #2 includes a specific course of action: to identify appropriate partners and resources and to collaborate on conference planning.

Mark your calendar and plan on attending both days of this community focused event! Call 518-473-2462 or email jfuller@dos.state.ny.us to be placed on the mailing list.

Visit the Quality Communities Clearinghouse Website www.dos.state.ny.us/QC

To make it easier for all communities to take advantage of State programs and assistance, the 25 members of the Quality Communities Interagency Working Group collaborated with the Department of State to create a Quality Communities Clearinghouse Website.

Organized by QC Principles, the Clearinghouse is a quick and easy-to-use directory of grant information, technical assistance, success stories, data, news and other tools designed to assist local governments, community organizations and citizens in their efforts to build Quality Communities.