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## Press Release

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### **Envision Utah Team Selected to Help Build Capacity around the Country**

A team led by Envision Utah has won a competitive contract to assist communities around the country to better plan for their future. The Envision Utah team was one of eight chosen by the Housing and Urban Development and Environmental Protection Agency to supplement the technical skills of other regions who have received HUD grants so they can make more informed decisions and enhance quality of life. In particular, the Envision Utah group will share its award-winning scenarios planning approach which has been so successful in Utah.

"These organizations will form capacity-building networks among the grantees to exchange ideas on successful strategies, lessons learned, emerging tools, and public engagement plans," the notice from HUD explained. "This work will strengthen the capacity of grantee communities to create more housing choices, make transportation more efficient and reliable, make more efficient investments in water and wastewater infrastructure, and build vibrant, healthy and economically prosperous neighborhoods for American families."

Envision Utah's team will share its extensive knowledge with Sustainable Communities Grantees, ensuring those grantees will have the knowledge and tools to successfully conduct their own scenarios process.

"I am confident that as we share our experience and tools with other regions, we, in turn, will learn things which will help Utah," said Envision Utah's Alan Matheson. "At this time of belt-tightening, this grant is helping regions to maximize public monies."

In addition to Envision Utah, the team includes Robert Grow Consultants and Fregonese Associates. The partnership that formed nearly 15 years ago is reconvening now to share years of experience with regions seeking to employ scenarios planning under the HUD Sustainable Communities program. The partnership has helped nearly 200 regions around the country conduct visioning processes involved in a range of scales, budgets and community types. Examples include Chicago Metropolis 2020, Compass Blueprint, Envision Central Texas, Grand Vision for Michigan's Traverse County, Hawaii, Louisiana, Orlando, Sacramento and San Diego.

Envision Utah is a nonprofit public/private partnership that facilitates informed public involvement to explore land use, transportation, and environmental solutions to the challenges presented by growth.

Their transparent grassroots approach draws on public values, research, scenarios analysis, powerful technology and community visioning. Envision Utah has been invited into regions experiencing political stalemate and has successfully helped residents find common ground and a consensus vision for the future. Its innovative approach is replicable and overcomes skepticism often associated with government initiatives. Envision Utah has initiated demonstration projects in dozens of jurisdictions in Utah and has shared its model with nearly 100 regions in the United States and 14 foreign countries. According to national planning leaders, projects inspired by Envision Utah have positively affected over 55 million people in the United States.

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