

Social Equity in Sustainable Communities

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LISC
Greater Houston

Emerging Trends

- Shift in Focus at the Neighborhood Level
- Federal Trends under Obama Administration
- LISC's *Building Sustainable Communities* strategy as an example



Local Initiatives Support Corporation

LISC's **mission** is to help nonprofit community development organizations transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities -- good places to work, do business, and raise children.

WHERE LISC WORKS

Washington State

Michigan Statewide

Buffalo

Boston

Cincinnati

Hartford &
CT Statewide

Rhode Island

New York City

Newark &
Jersey City

Philadelphia

Washington, D.C.

Duluth

Indianapolis
Chicago

Detroit

Toledo

Twin Cities

Milwaukee

San Francisco
Bay Area

Los Angeles

San Diego

Phoenix

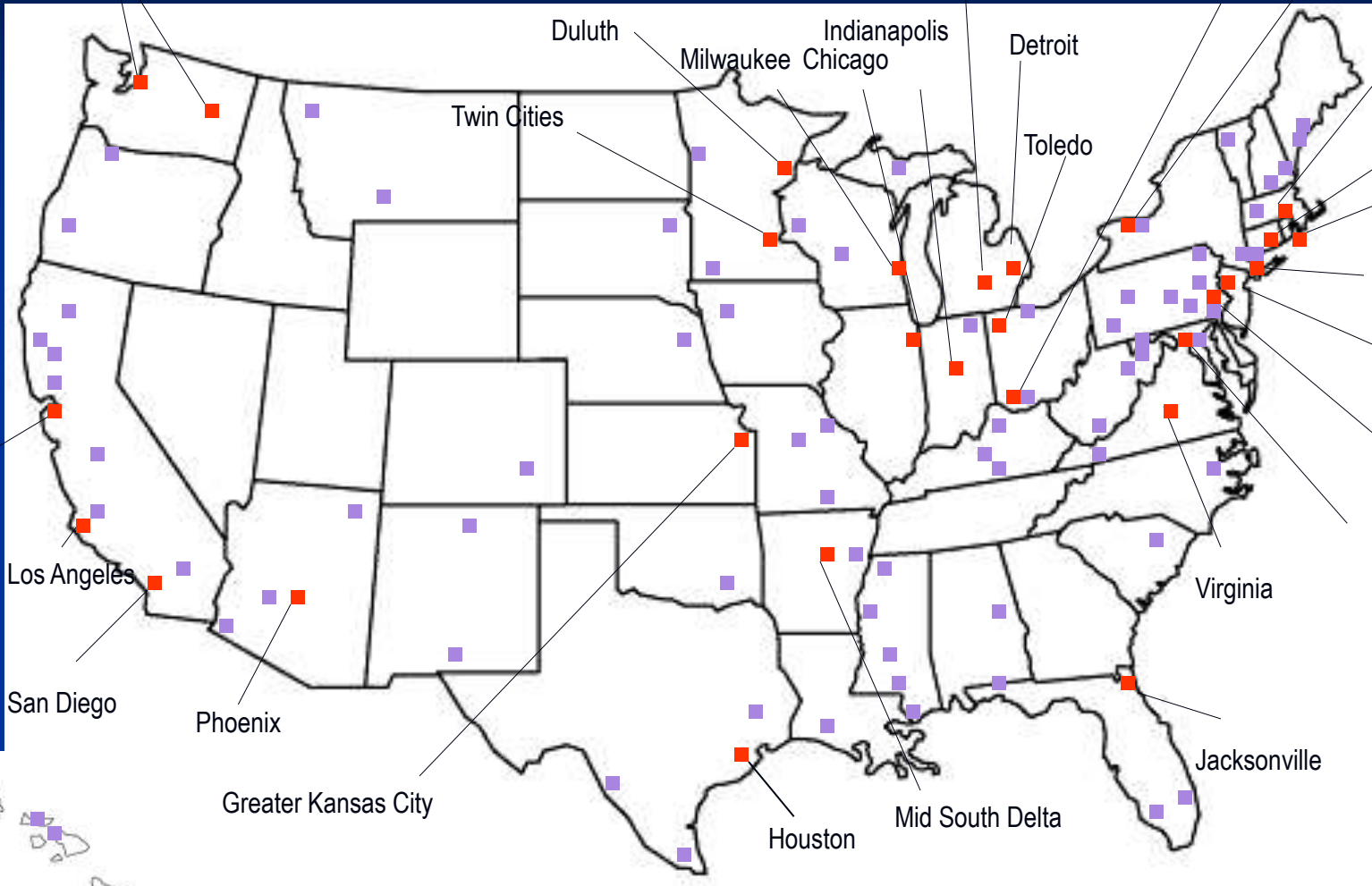
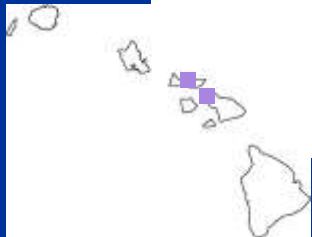
Greater Kansas City

Houston

Mid South Delta

Virginia

Jacksonville



30 Urban Programs

Rural LISC Sites in 36 States

Objectives for LISC's *Building Sustainable Communities*

- Real Estate Development
- Family Income and Wealth
- Economic Development
- Access to Education
- Healthy Environments and Lifestyles
 - Green, healthcare, play, food access, arts and culture, preservation

LISC Houston

- Comprehensive Community Development
- Community Engagement Foundation
- Pilot Neighborhoods
 - Independence Heights
 - Northside



Community Building

- Community Organizing
- Collaborative Work
- Engage, Educate, Empower to Act
- Connected Stakeholders
- Clarity of Focus



Examples

- Fruitvale
- Detroit
- Houston
 - Mobility
 - Flooding
 - Community Safety



Comprehensive Community Development



- Integrated Nature of Neighborhoods
- “Can’t House People out of Poverty”
- Maximize efficiency of land use

Where is it Working?



Harlem, NYC



Indianapolis



Chicago



Bay Area

Federal Policy & NOFAs

- Criteria: Comprehensive, Community Engagement, Collaboration, Social Equity
- Initiatives:
 - Promise Neighborhoods
 - Choice Neighborhoods
 - Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants
 - Livable Communities Act



Regional Equity

Achieving regional equity means considering both *people* and *place*. A competitive and inclusive region is one in which members of *all racial, ethnic, and income groups* have *opportunities* to live and work in all parts of the region, have access to living wage jobs and are included in the mainstream of regional life.

It is also one in which all *neighborhoods are supported to be vibrant places* with choices for affordable housing, good schools, access to open space, decent transit that connects people to jobs, and healthy sustainable environments.

Conversation on Regional Equity, 2006

Four Principles for Equitable Development

- Integrate strategies that focus on **people** with those focused on improving **places**;
- **Reduce** local and regional **disparities**;
- Promote investments that are **catalytic**, **coordinated**, and result in a **triple bottom line**; and
- Ensure meaningful **community participation**, **leadership**, and **ownership** in change efforts.

Tools for Equitable Development

Revitalize Commercial Districts	Build Walkable Neighborhoods	Preserve and Create Neighborhood Assets	Expand Equitable Development Opportunities
Infill Incentives Community Mapping Commercial Linkage Strategies	Urban Greening Community Land Trusts Commercial Stabilization	Transit Oriented Development Real Estate Transfer Taxes Developer Exactions	Inclusionary Zoning Climate Change Advocacy Healthy Food Retailing Brownfields

Choices

- Density Mix
- Manage Gentrification
- Regional Economy vs. Individual Markets/Players
- Value of Employees Near Work Centers
- Equity Factor
- Managing Land Use and Resources



Considerations

- People and Place
- Equitable=Prosperity
Evidence
- Start with Equity in Mind
- Regional Equity - Urban,
Suburban, Small Towns,
and Rural
- Environmental and
Economy





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