Social Equity in Sustainable Communities

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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

- 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

Go Neighborhoods
Where Great Opportunities Grow
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?

- Chicago
- Bay Area
- Indianapolis
- Harlem, NYC
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.
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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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