

White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) Second Round of SC2 Locations

Expanding Strong Cities, Strong Communities to a New Round of Cities

As part of the President's priority to strengthen the middle class, create jobs, and build ladders of opportunity as communities regain their economic footing, SC2 has named seven new locations that will receive technical advice and expertise from federal inter-agency teams. These teams will partner with the mayor and city leadership to support the community's vision for economic development. Their primary mandate is to align federal programs and help communities more effectively invest existing resources. Beginning in January 2014, SC2 teams will engage in the following locations: **St. Louis, MO; Gary, IN; Flint, MI; Brownsville, TX; Rockford, IL; Macon, GA; and Rocky Mount, NC.**

St. Louis, MO:

The SC2 team will help advance the City's Sustainability Plan with the goal to make the City of St. Louis cleaner, safer, and healthier. Specifically, the SC2 team will provide technical assistance in city and regional planning; identify resources that might be needed for implementation; and support efforts to convene local, cross-sector partners to align work and resources. The team will focus on the Northside Regeneration Project, which involves a multi-faceted approach to redevelop an area of the city which is in great need of support. SC2's work will also coordinate the efforts of various Federal initiatives already underway in St. Louis, such as the ongoing work on the Department of Housing and Urban Development's East-West Gateway Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, the Department of Justice's Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grant, and the Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation Fund, among others.

Gary, IN:

The SC2 team will provide coordination and enhanced support of existing City efforts to revitalize its neighborhoods – both economically and environmentally. Specifically, the SC2 team will enhance and augment the existing partnership between the City and the HUD/DOT/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities on the Northside Redevelopment Project, a significant redevelopment effort spanning four neighborhoods. In addition, the SC2 team will support the City's plan to assess the feasibility of a regional trauma and academic medical center in partnership with local higher educational institutions. The team will provide technical assistance to develop a data-driven land use management strategy to maximize city resources. Finally, the team will continue to support ongoing federal-state-local partnership efforts to enhance public safety.

Flint, MI:

The City of Flint is beginning to implement its master plan, [Imagine Flint](#), which is funded by a \$1.57M HUD Sustainable Communities Challenge Grant. The SC2 team will provide expertise to support the implementation of this plan by focusing on three core areas: neighborhood stabilization; economic development and brownfield remediation; and violence prevention. Specifically, the SC2 team will support the City's efforts to manage multiple funding streams, streamline associated regulations, and leverage additional resources in order to implement their strategies in these areas. The SC2 team will provide

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technical assistance to augment the ongoing efforts of the US Attorney's Office and Federal, state and local law enforcement partners to achieve better public safety and neighborhood revitalization outcomes.

Brownsville, TX:

As a growing City on the U.S.-Mexico border, Brownsville is uniquely situated for economic growth. In order to help the City ensure the whole community benefits from this growth potential, SC2 will provide technical assistance to help advance the City's infrastructure development, education and human capital, and public health promotion objectives. The SC2 team will work with a diverse group of stakeholders the City has already convened to drive its [Imagine Brownsville Comprehensive Plan](#). The plan has already received an award from the American Planning Association.

Rockford, IL:

The SC2 team will assist the City of Rockford by helping them leverage and implement its economic development plans in the areas of business development, education and workforce training, and public safety. The City has worked creatively to address its high unemployment rate, including through a creative partnership with the online craft sales platform, Etsy, that has provided entrepreneurship training to high school students and public housing residents. The SC2 team will augment these efforts by assisting Rockford with a cradle to career workforce development strategy. The team will also provide coordinated technical assistance to identify opportunities for economic growth and strategies to address crime prevention.

Macon, GA:

Macon-Bibb will leverage SC2's coordinated technical assistance with its diverse consortium of philanthropic, public, and private partners to achieve the revitalization of their historic downtown, completion of the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail, and redevelopment near the historic Terminal Station. The SC2 team will advise in the development of a regional transportation plan, leveraging the City's unique asset as a logistics hub of the Middle Georgia region. The SC2 team will work with the Chamber of Commerce and local educational partners to provide best practices in developing a workforce strategy for the City. Concurrently, the team will share best practices to assist the City with public safety and crime prevention needs.

Rocky Mount, NC:

The City of Rocky Mount recently completed a collaborative process with Nash and Edgecombe Counties to develop a broad based vision and strategic plan for the Twin Counties Region. Now in its implementation phase, the plan is utilizing community members' shared vision to create a prosperous future. The SC2 Team will coordinate federal resources and draw on the area's rich agricultural assets focusing on the food economy to bolster economic activity and positive resident health outcomes, as well as assisting in improving the quality of life in the downtown and several neighborhoods. There will be a concurrent focus on job creation and workforce talent development.