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Classifying Sustainability Policy Themes from HUD's 2010 Regional Sustainability Planning Grantees

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Sustainability Planning Lab Objectives

- Scan the broader landscape of local government sustainability planning
- Connect theory (academic analysis) with emerging planning practices
- Dissect city/county sustainability plan
- Identify different sustainability planning models and innovative practices
- Classify the applications of HUD's 2010 regional sustainability grantees
- Share preliminary results of plan dissection and HUD grantee classification via presentations and web page

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HUD Grant Analysis:

- Request and receive applications
- Examine the narratives and abstracts of 39 of the 45 grantees
- Develop and apply content classification template
  - Core grantee characteristics
  - Content rankings of core sustainability policy themes
- Compile and synthesize relevant results and observations

Applications Not Included in Analysis:

1. Evansville MPO [Evansville, IN]
2. Gulf Regional Planning Commission [Gulfport, MS]
3. Southern Bancorp Capital Partners Helena-West [Helena, AR]
4. University of Kentucky Research Foundation [Lexington, KY]
5. Apache County [St. John's, AZ]
6. Greater Portland Council of Governments [Portland, ME]

** Applications still missing*

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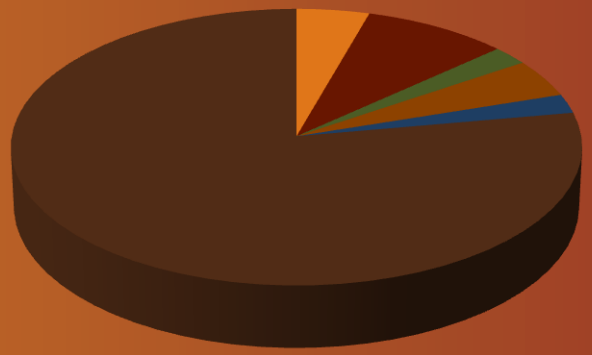
Profile of HUD 2010 Regional Sustainability Grantees: Who are they?

- There were 45 grants awarded.
- Majority were lead by MPOs.
- The average award was $2.1 million
- There are 28 Type I and 17 Type 2 grants
- There are 17 rural and 28 urban grantees



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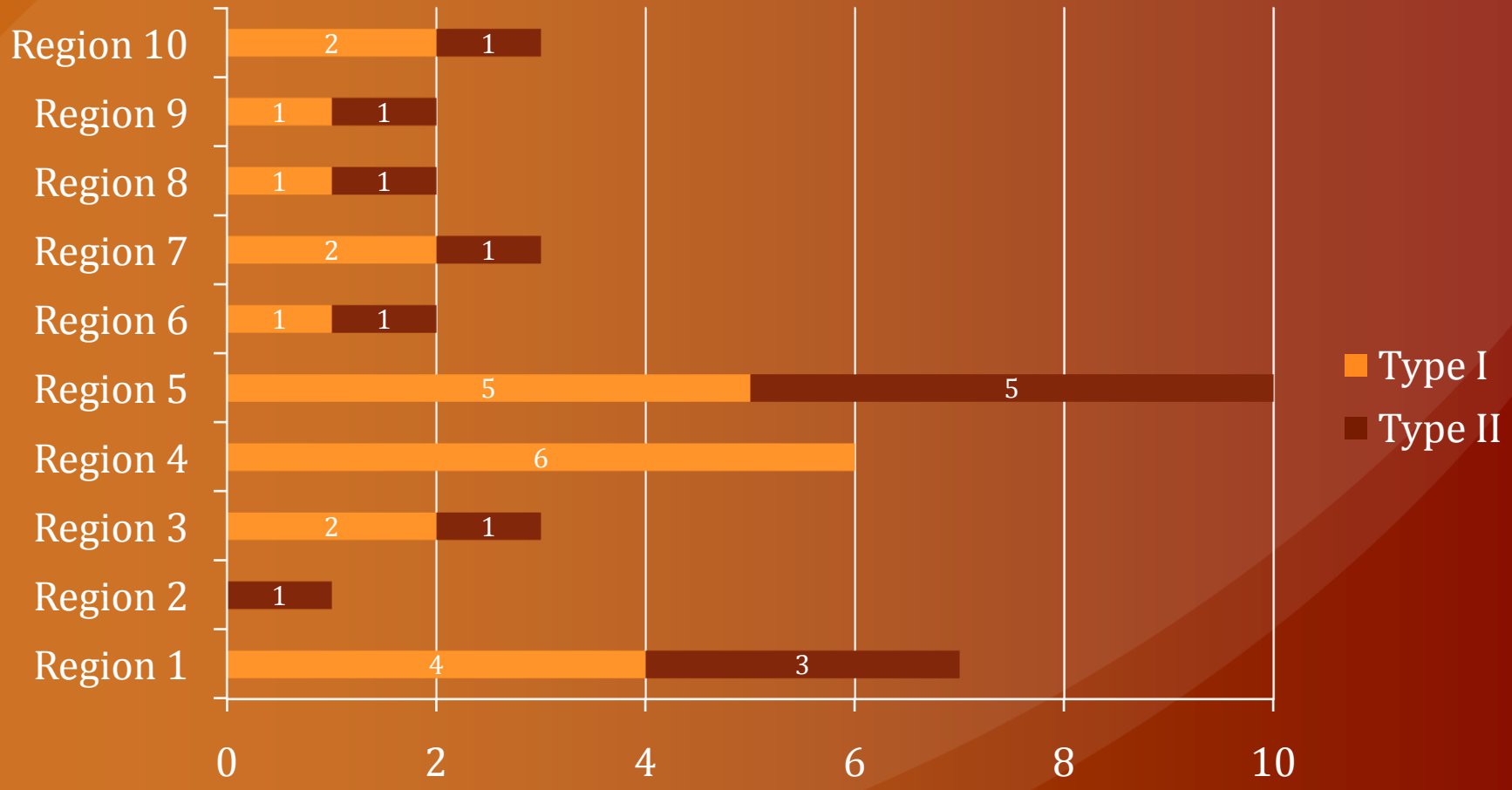
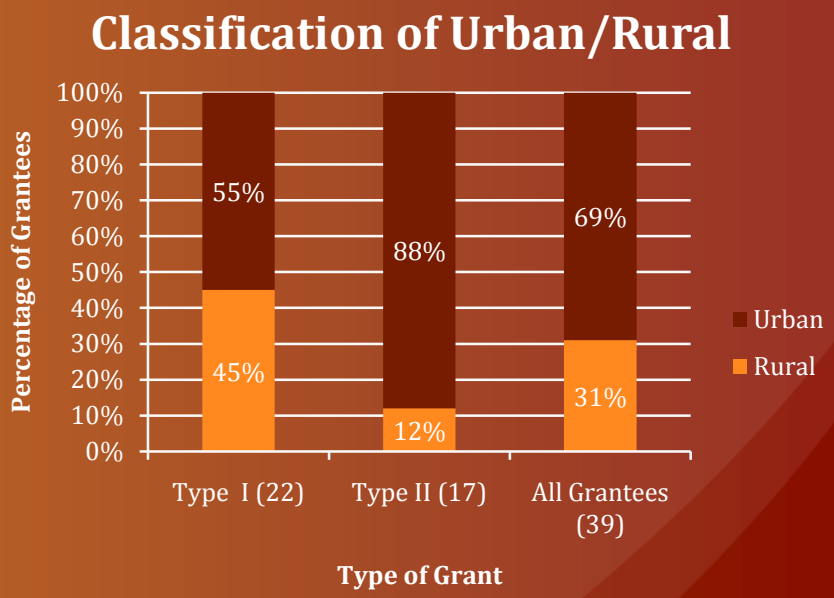
39 Grantees by HUD Region



Applicant Profile:
Grants Analyzed

- Analyzed 39 grant applications
  - Twenty-two Type I grants
  - Seventeen Type II grants
- Rural/Urban Classification
  - 31% of applicants are rural (less than 200K)
  - 69% are urban (200K or more)



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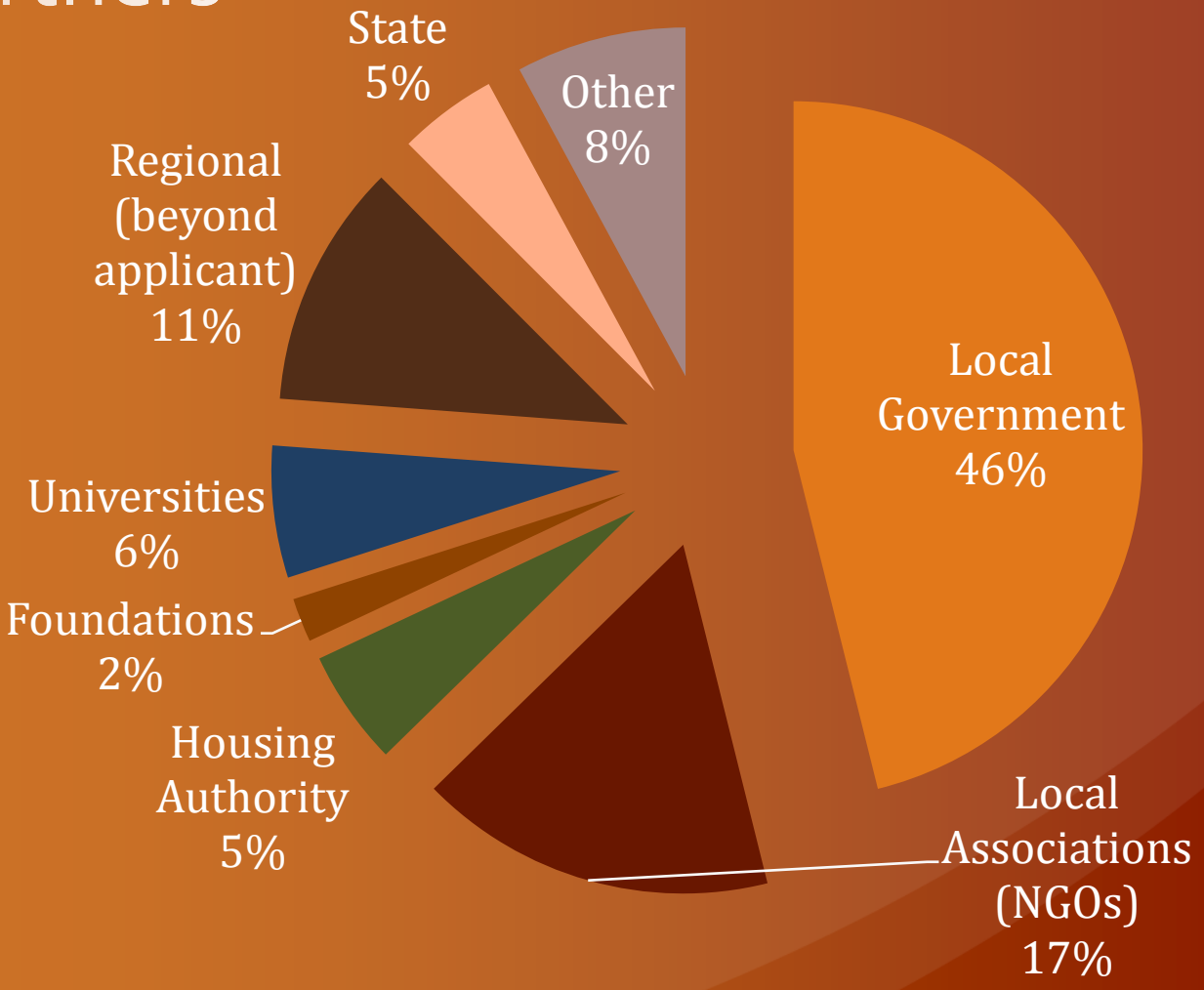
Core Partners

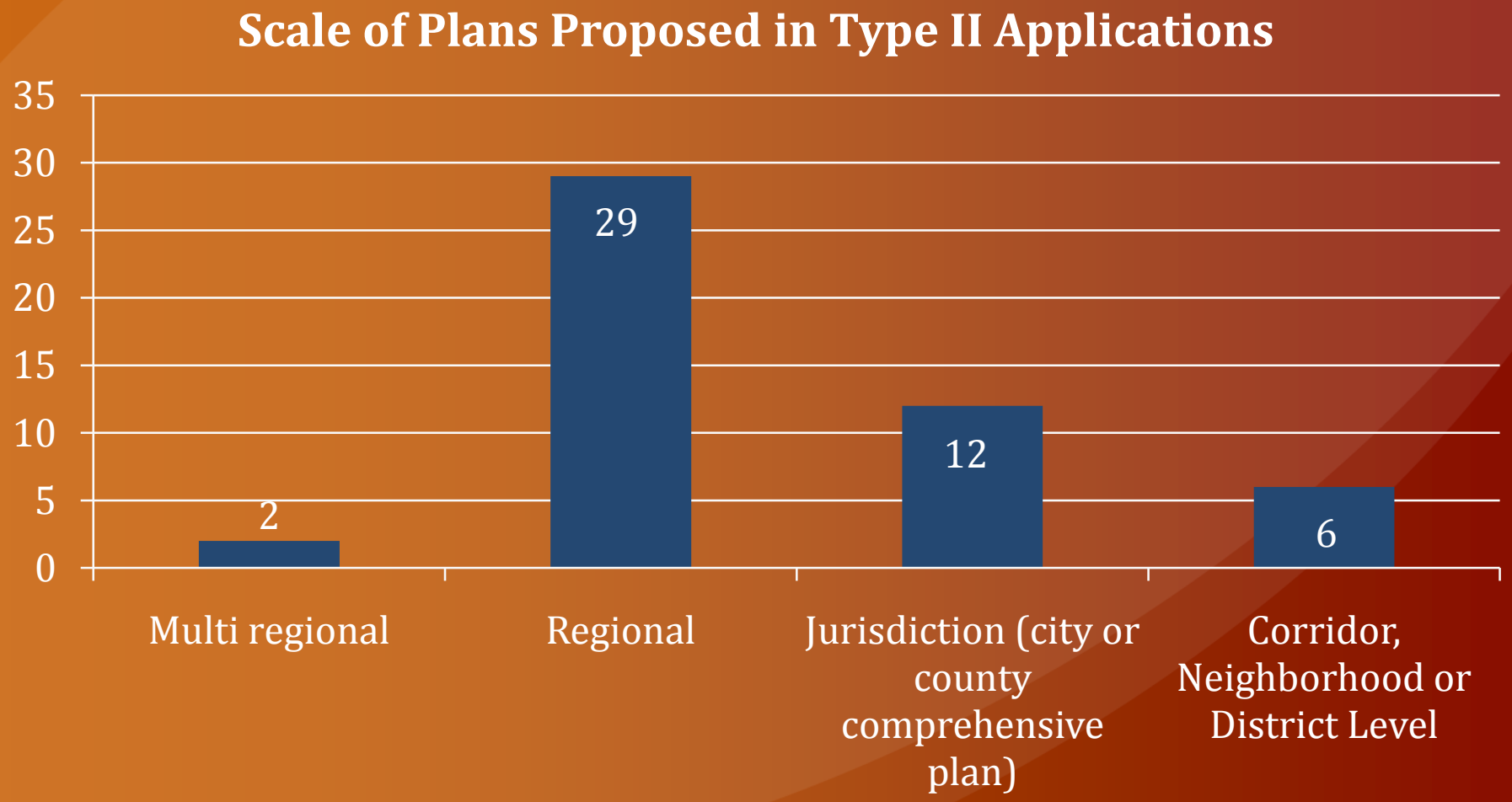


Grant Breakdown	Classification Template Sustainability Themes
Type I	**1.** Transportation
Applications focus on the process for creating regional sustainability plans	**2.** Housing
Type II	**3.** Land Use and Form
Applications focus on capacity building and technical assistance to implement plans.	**4.** Environmental Sustainability
Urban	**5.** Economic Development and Business Sustainability
Metropolitan areas or regions with more than 200,000 total residents	**6.** Social/Civic Sustainability
Rural	**7.** Neighborhood/ Community Development
Metropolitan areas or regions with fewer than 200,000 total residents	

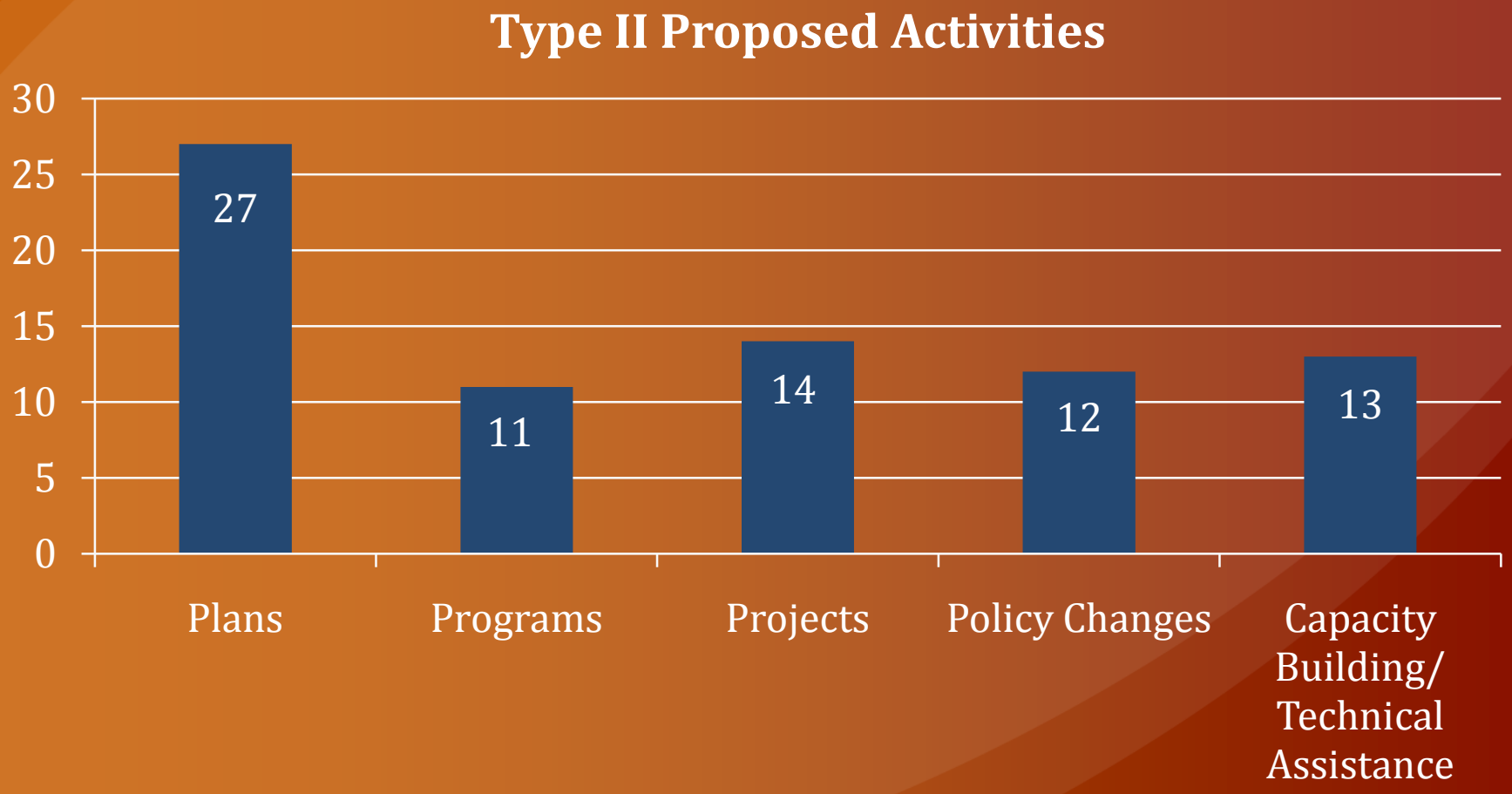
Theme Ranking (1 – 7)

All Applications	Category 1	Category 2	Urban	Rural
1. Transportation	1	1	1	1
2. Housing	2	2- 3	3	3
3. Land Use and Form	3	2 -3	2	5
4. Environmental Sustainability	4	4	4	2
5. Economic Development and Business Sustainability	5	6	5	4
6. Social/Civic Sustainability	6 - 7	5	6	6 - 7
7. Neighborhood/Community Development	6 - 7	7	7	6 - 7

Type II Grantees



Type II Grantee Activities



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Collaborative Planning Process:
Intriguing Techniques + Technology

Process

- Steering Committees
- Data Gathering/ Base lining
- Plan synthesizing/combining

Technology Uses

- Simulations
- Social Media
- Websites
- Touchscreen Kiosks

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Sustainability Content Analysis:

- Rankings reflect the RFP's focus on transportation and land use. Environment, social equity, and economic development tended to receive less emphasis
- Applications contained very little emphasis on neighborhood-scale issues
- Housing elements tended to be based around affordable housing, but did not contain many other sustainability elements related to housing issues
- Rural regions had much less focus on transportation than urban regions
- There seemed to be a geographic influence of priorities- industrial and formal industrial regions have more focus on brownfields, coastal/wetlands regions focus more on water quality, etc.
- Few applications provided details on multi-regional collaboration

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Next Steps for the Planning Lab:

- Gather all 45 applications
- Update and refine our analysis
- Grantee review profiles
- Report ready for dissemination in July 2011
- Post profiles and report on **sustainabilityplanninglab.wordpress.com**
  - More in depth information on our grant analysis
  - Details about the sustainability plan scoring
  - Latest developments in the field of sustainability planning