

Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) Introduction to Working Group Themes

Introduction

This is an excerpt adapted from the CTAP Plan for Action. It is the outcome of an extensive six-month planning process that involved over one hundred people representing local government, state government, and non-government organizations. This planning process involved holding a kick-off session, organizing three large-group planning sessions, and convening a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee to identify technical assistance needs of communities and set priorities for activities. The CTAP Steering Committee worked with Antioch New England Institute to organize and synthesize the information collected at these sessions into four *themes* and corresponding *sub-themes*, summarized in the following pages.

For CTAP to achieve the vision expressed during the six-month planning process, four working groups will be organized on June 14, 2006. Each will be responsible for one of the four emergent themes and will identify activities aimed at achieving the goals and ultimate outcomes within that theme. These working groups will function for the duration of the CTAP program and membership may change each year. Working groups will meet twice over the summer of 2006 and build upon baseline information synthesized by the Steering Committee in April, May, and June of 2006. At these two meetings working groups will discuss an appropriate sequence of activities in order to achieve the ultimate goals and outcomes pertaining to their theme. Based on the sequential order of actions, Working Groups will prepare a list of detailed activities to be considered for funding in year one.

Activities developed must address the following:

- Which specific outcome(s) they are linked to
- What priorities from the local government survey they address
- Which bucket(s) they fall into
- Who; What; When; Where; and by Whom

Working groups will be co-chaired by a Local Government Representative and a representative from a Regional Planning Commission. Co-chairs will meet at the conclusion of the summer to discuss collectively their proposed activities and prepare a recommendation of activities for the Steering Committee to consider for funding in year one. Activities will be consolidated, where appropriate, to address overarching themes. The Steering Committee will meet in a subsequent meeting to decide which activities will be funded. Activities that will receive funding in year one will be announced at the fall roll out conference.

This excerpt provides a brief description of each of the working groups themes. This document, along with Chapter 2 of the CTAP Plan for Action from which it is adapted, is a working document intended to be modified and clarified throughout the CTAP program.

Theme A: Community Infrastructure

- Funding and Delivering Municipal Services
- Regional Cooperation
- Housing
- Transportation

Theme B: Environmental Protection, Land Use, and Open Space

- Environmental Protection
- Open Space Protection

Theme C: Downtown/Village Centers and Community Vitality

- Downtown and Village Centers
- Community Vitality

Theme D: Local Economy

- Economic Vitality and Business Development
- Agriculture and Working Rural Landscapes

Theme A: Community Infrastructure

High quality municipal and educational services and infrastructure, accessible and diverse transportation solutions, and adequate housing

Outcomes

The following outcomes have been identified for public infrastructure:

- Adequate and stable funding for local government and school infrastructure and services.
- Adequate quantity and quality of municipal infrastructure and services.
- More cost-effective and innovative regional approaches to delivery of municipal and school services.
- Adequate supply of affordable and workforce housing.
- Mobile, reliable, safe and diverse transportation systems for delivery of services, goods, and people.

Funding and Delivering Municipal Services

Goals

- Assist local governments in establishing stable, consistent funding approaches for public infrastructure and services.
- Ensure continuation of strong municipal services and schools so that they continue to provide quality services and meet projected growth.

Regional Cooperation

Goals

- Develop and support new methods of regional cooperation that enhance local government delivery of public services while ensuring environmental quality.
- Allocate financial resources on a regional basis.

Housing

Goals

- Ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing stock for a range of income levels that reflects local needs and priorities.

Transportation

Goals

- Promote safe, efficient, accessible, and diverse multi-modal transportation solutions for services and goods.

Theme B: Environment Protection, Land Use, and Open Space

Strengthened protection and expanded access to natural resources and open space

Outcomes

The following outcomes have been identified for environmental protection, land use, and open space:

- Minimized adverse impacts of existing and new development on natural resources.
- Increased network of inter-connected protected green infrastructure.
- Increased access to open space, parks, and recreational sites.
- Municipalities cooperating on environmental issues of regional impact, including watersheds, greenways, and open space.

Environmental Protection

Goals

- Protect natural resources in harmony with meeting economic needs of the region.
- Protect natural resources and environmental health, including ground water and aquifers, wildlife, and wildlife corridors.

Open Space Protection

Goals

- Establish and conserve an interconnected green infrastructure.
- Ensure convenient and nearby public access to open space, parks, and recreational opportunities.
- Maintain unique and diverse rural character of the region by protecting and preserving farm and forest lands.

Theme C: Downtown/Village Centers and Community Vitality

Vital, diverse, safe, and participatory communities with rural character, vibrant town centers, and a wide range of cultural and recreational resources

Outcomes

The following outcomes have been identified for downtown/village centers and community vitality:

- Revitalized existing and strong new downtown, village, and neighborhood centers.
- Increased recreational and cultural opportunities and resources.
- Increased opportunities for and participation in community activities.

Downtowns and Village Centers

Goals

- Target and support new development and redevelopment of existing downtowns and village centers, reusing built infrastructure, and rehabilitating buildings of historic value.
- Promote walkable downtowns and villages consistent with historic patterns in the region.
- Maintain small town New England “feel” with vibrant town centers and main streets, and historic preservation of buildings and landscape.

Vibrant Communities

Goals

- Support and encourage safe and diverse communities with a wide range of cultural and recreational resources.
- Foster an atmosphere wherein community members are actively involved and participate in civic life in their communities.

Theme D: Local Economy

Strengthened economic, business, and agricultural development that provides local employment and livable wages

Outcomes

The following outcomes have been identified for local economy:

- More diverse and stable local economy
- More people employed locally
- Increased food and fiber produced and consumed locally

Economic Vitality and Business Development

Goals

- Support sustainable and balanced economic growth and tax base.
- Support broad-based business development that provides local employment and livable wages.

Agriculture and Rural Working Landscapes

Goals

- Strengthen local agriculture and forestry by supporting related infrastructure and economic systems.