



## HUD Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS) In the Roanoke Valley Metropolitan Statistical Area



In 2010, a Consortium of organizations in the Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) successfully applied for funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. As a result of its funding award, the Roanoke MSA is now eligible for Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS), which allows other applicants within the MSA to qualify for up to two bonus points for select HUD programs. The primary contact regarding the PSS is the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC).

### Eligible Programs

HUD anticipates making the Preferred Sustainable Status Communities bonus points available in the following program NOFAs:

- Asthma Interventions in Public and Assisted Multifamily Housing Grant Program
- Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI)
- Capital Fund Education and Training Community Facilities Program
- Choice Neighborhoods
- Continuum of Care
- Fair Housing Initiatives Program
- Healthy Homes Production
- Healthy Homes Technical Studies
- Hispanic Institutions Assisting Communities (HSIAC)
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program (HBCU)
- HOPE VI Main Street
- HOPE VI Revitalization Housing Counseling Program
- Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
- Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program
- Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration
- Multifamily Energy Innovation NOFA
- Rural Innovation Fund
- Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing (Limited Competition)
- Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly
- Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program
- Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP)

Please note that HUD may revise this list at any time. Applicants are advised to carefully review the program NOFA for which they intend to apply to determine the availability of Preferred Sustainable Status Communities bonus points.

### Securing PSS Bonus Points

The process to certify an application for the PSS bonus points is simple:

1. **Review the eligibility criteria.**
  - a. *The applicant is applying to fund activities within the Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area. (see map)*
  - b. *The applicant is engaged in activities that furthers the purposes of the Roanoke Valley Livability Initiative; and*
  - c. *The applicant's proposed activities either directly reflect the Livability*



*Principles cited and contained in HUD's General Section to the FY2011 NOFAs or will result in the delivery of services that are consistent with the goals of the Livability Principles; and*

- d. *The applicant commits to maintain an on-going relationship with the Partnership for a Livable Roanoke Valley for the purposes of being part of the planning and implementation processes in the designated area.*
2. **Submit Certification Request to RVARC.** Request should come as an email directed to Jake Gilmer ([jgilmer@rvarc.org](mailto:jgilmer@rvarc.org)) and include a short description of the HUD application (limit 2 pages), with the following information.
    - a. The proposed project/application including the location of the project, with any relevant information about transportation choices to the location and/or nearby housing choices.
    - b. How the proposed project aligns with the Livability Principles?
      - *Provide more transportation choices.*
      - *Promote equitable, affordable housing.*
      - *Enhance economic competitiveness.*
      - *Support existing communities.*
      - *Coordinate policies and leverage investments.*
      - *Value communities and neighborhoods*
    - c. How the point of contact from the applicant will commit to maintain an on-going relationship with a Roanoke Valley Livability Initiative, for the purposes of being part of the planning and implementation processes in the designated area.
  3. **The RVARC will review the request based on the following criteria listed in Step 1.** If it is determined that a proposed project meets these criteria, the RVARC will complete HUD Form 2995 and provide it the applicant.
  4. **The applicant is responsible for including the form in its application.** The Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities (OSHC) staff will review the certification and alert the program office in question whether an entity qualifies for the bonus points. While the certification is the driving document in this process, HUD retains the right to do additional diligence to confirm that the points are merited, and to determine whether to award the bonus points.

**RVARC will make a concerted effort to quickly review the project summaries and requests a minimum of 3 days to review and respond to submittals of PSS. Advance notice of intent to apply is appreciated.**

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission point of contact:

Jake Gilmer  
Senior Planner  
Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission  
313 Luck Avenue, SW – PO Box 2569  
Roanoke, VA 24010

Email: [jgilmer@rvarc.org](mailto:jgilmer@rvarc.org)  
Phone: 540-343-4417