

## DRAFT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

### NEW COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

#### Background

The New England Regional Commission was created in 1967 under provisions of the PWED Act of 1965. In 1969 a number of amendments to the Act clarified and strengthened the Commission's ability to initiate region-wide programs and demonstrations.

The Commission's task is to improve the economic well being of the region and its constituent components. To meet that purpose the Commission has initiated programs in the area of C.I.D., Human Resources, Natural Resources, Transportation and Government Services.

Since its inception in 1967 the New England Regional Commission has maintained a continuing interest in the potential contribution which New Communities development could add to a region-wide approach to solving New England's needs and opportunities.

Each of the New England States has expressed interest in a New Communities Program. In 1969 and 1970 exploratory Commission staff meetings with State officials resulted in preliminary identification of a New Communities policy and program applicable to New England. At the time, the approach which was suggested far exceeded the bounds of eligibility for the Federal New Communities program then in effect. Additionally, the massive funding identified as being required for any serious New Communities effort appeared to be far beyond the resources of the Commission.

Passage of Title VII legislation of 1970 suggests that the Federal New Communities program may now prove to be significant to New England development and warrant Commission support.

The purpose of the proposal now being requested should be to explore and define objectives, strategy, and program elements for such a program in New England.

#### Resources

The study will be supervised by a committee of State and Federal region public officials all of whom have existing or potential responsibilities in a New Communities program in New England. The Commission staff, in addition to study management and a modest level of direct involvement, may be assumed as available for assistance for data, access to officials, and policy interpretation.

#### Approach

It is important to underline that all doors of exploration are open at this time. The summary of previous meetings (Attachment "A") are for your information and no policy commitments should be assumed.

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#### Study Objectives

1. Overall purposes of New Communities Program must be identified.

Among the potential purposes are:

- a. Improved recreational/seasonal development projects
- b. Induce decentralization to rural areas from concentrated metropolitan areas.
- c. Tool for managing growth in metropolitan areas.
- d. Meet housing and social needs of Central City residents.
- e. Component of regional growth center program.



2. The proposed program should reflect unique qualities of New England including:
  - a. Small scale
  - b. Extensive existing urban development
  - c. Incorporated towns cover virtually all areas
3. Examination of financial and organizational questions and approaches most feasible for a regional New Communities Program.
4. Examination of statutory provisions for various new community development organizations and relevant controls in each State.
5. Evaluation of means to inventory of public lands potentially useable as sites and a basis for monitoring major private land development transactions.

#### Study Products

1. Identify elements of potential Commission supported programs.
2. Evaluate Federal legislation and identify key components existing or needed to address New England needs.
3. Identify financial and organizational structures most appropriate for a New Communities program in New England
4. Identify key State legislation and program elements needed in each State to implement and direct regional new community program.
5. Establish basis for an intelligence system inventory of major public lands and monitoring large scale private land development in New England.

#### Policy Emphasis and Level of Effort

The study is intended to focus on evaluation of potential actions leading toward policy recommendations. As such, no large data effort is anticipated. Assume approximately seven adequately supported man-months of effort.

## Proposals

Proposals should be addressed to Donald J. Skinner, Director, Planning, Commission Office and be received by close of business, 1972. The proposals should show:

1. Approach to the problem
  2. Phases and schedule
  3. Who would be working on study and generally in what capacities.
  4. Experience of the firm which is pertinent to the proposed study.
  5. Involvement of Commission, State and Federal officials in the study.
  6. Cost
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