



2010 Conference Scholarship Announcement: New Partners for Smart Growth—Seattle, Washington

Communities across Louisiana are working to foster economic growth, make efficient use of tax payer dollars, maximize the use of existing infrastructure, protect natural resources, enhance public health, offer a range of housing types, and provide safe communities. Unfortunately, many communities lack the tools, resources, or information necessary to achieve these goals.

In order to help meet this growing need, the Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX), a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, has annually offered scholarships to local governments within Louisiana whose communities are currently employing Smart Growth principles and techniques into their planning efforts. In 2010, CPEX will provide \$1000 scholarships for up to ten elected officials to attend the **9th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities Conference**, to be held on February 4 -6, 2010 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle, Washington (please visit <http://www.newpartners.org/>).

This three day conference, the nation's premier forum on Smart Growth, will offer participants the opportunity to hear about the latest research, cutting-edge tools and techniques used to implement plans, model projects, planning best practices, policies and codes, coordinated networking activities, interactive learning experiences, and new partners.

Most importantly, this dynamic event will offer elected officials with a great opportunity to network and coordinate with their peers, as well as practitioners, from many different disciplines and from across the country. In order to apply for these resources, the interested elected officials must comply with application submission requirements described on pages 2 and 3.

In addition to the \$1000 scholarship, CPEX will offer the selected applicants direct staff assistance in applying for a scholarship offered by the Local Government Commission to have their conference registration fee of \$309 waived.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

CPEX received a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide funding to assist and support local governments in community planning efforts that are consistent with Smart Growth planning principles and the goals of the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan*, including sponsoring educational opportunities. CPEX is now working with seven jurisdictions to develop Smart Growth plans and implementation policies.

Smart Growth is characterized by the following principles:

- take advantage of existing infrastructure investments by directing development and redevelopment towards existing communities;

- create a range of housing opportunities and choices;
- mixed land uses;
- create walkable neighborhoods;
- foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place;
- preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas;
- provide a variety of transportation choices;
- make development decisions predictable, fair and cost effective; and
- encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.

For more information on Smart Growth, please visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's web site at: www.epa.gov/smartgrowth.

CPEX Scholarship History

CPEX first provided scholarships for elected officials to attend the 2008 7th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Healthy, Safe, Livable Communities conference in Washington, DC. Ten local elected officials attended the three-day conference with CPEX staff in February 2008.

In January 2009, CPEX staff and ten elected officials from across Louisiana travelled to Albuquerque, NM to attend the 8th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth conference. They attended conference sessions on small town planning, planning challenges in coastal communities, and solutions for transportation issues.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are encouraged to apply via email, mail, or hand delivery starting August 27, 2009 until 4 pm, September 28, 2009. The scholarship will be awarded to the selected applicant's local government at the end of the trip and all applicants are responsible for their own logistics including hotel reservations and flights. CPEX anticipates announcing the selected elected officials by the end of October 2009.

CPEX will evaluate applications based on the criteria listed below.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Applicant must be a local, elected government official in Louisiana (e.g., mayor, councilman/woman, and police juror, etc). This scholarship does not extend to members of an elected official's staff.
2. Applicant must demonstrate a commitment and interest in learning more about the principles of Smart Growth and how to effectively implement these principles in his/her community.
3. Applicant must describe a future initiative or current planning project in his/her community which demonstrably employs the principles of Smart Growth and how attendance of the New Partners Conference would assist him/her in building capacity as a community leader.
4. Additional weight will be given to elected officials who pledge to support another critical member of their community who assist them with Smart Growth planning (e.g. additional elected official, planning director, planning commissioner, executive assistant, etc.).

5. Applicants will be required to attend the full conference. Please state your commitment to this in your application.

Submitting the Application

To be considered complete and eligible for review, all applicants must submit a one to two page letter describing the elected official's interest in the conference and outlining any current or future plans for community planning and implementation of Smart Growth tenets.

CPEX must receive applications by 4:00 p.m., September 28, 2009. No late applications will be accepted. All applications must be submitted in accordance with the requirements described above.

Please send your application via mail, email, or hand delivery to:

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For more information, go to www.planningexcellence.org