

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission was recently awarded a US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Challenge Grant for a number of projects that will assist local municipalities in meeting their local visions and policy goals.

In an unprecedented collaboration between two federal agencies, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) presented the Community Challenge Grant award to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission at their February 2011 Commission meeting held at their office at 10 Water Street in Lebanon, NH. The grant was successful through HUD because of the diverse partnerships that will be collaborating in the effort. Partners include the Upper Valley Housing Coalition, the Town of Hanover, the Upper Valley Health Eating Active Living initiative, Granite United Way, Vital Communities, Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission and Dartmouth Hitchcock HEAL.

As a result of this successful award, the entire Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission region and its partners have now been designated by HUD with Preferred Sustainability Status. This means that HUD will award **2 bonus points** to any applicants that demonstrate that their project will result in on-going collaboration with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission's Regional Plan.

To be eligible to receive bonus points, an applicant is required to obtain a certification from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission for the designated Preferred Sustainability Status Community using form HUD 2995 that verifies that the applicant has met the 'Livability' criteria. The form will certify the nexus between the proposed activities of the applicant and the Livability Principles as they are being advanced in the Preferred Sustainability Status Community. It must be signed and dated prior to the funding opportunity deadline on www.Grants.gov.

A list of the HUD grants that will be eligible to receive Preferred Sustainability Status bonus points will be published soon. To learn more visit www.hud.gov or contact Christine Walker at the Regional Planning Commission at 603-448-1680. Additionally, to view a map of the communities that are eligible to receive PSS bonus points see the Regional Planning Commission's website at www.uvlsrc.org.