

## **AP-45 Community Revitalization Strategies – 91.320(k)(1)(ii)**

**Will the state allow units of general local government to carry out community revitalization strategies?**

No

### **State’s Process and Criteria for approving local government revitalization strategies**

The State of Michigan does not formally run and oversee a community revitalization strategy in the sense of the program outlined in 24 CFR 91.320. However there are policies and programs in place that are very similar in intent. This includes some additional consideration given to projects that participate in our state’s Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program, Michigan Main Street program and the Rising Tide Program. In addition, the state maintains a team of people who work directly with communities to identify CDBG and other community projects. Michigan’s policy for regional and local community development is organized on a “place”-based philosophy, known as placemaking”. Placemaking's contribution to the State Economic Growth strategy is to demonstrate and promote the locational setting(s) for targeting sustained economic, social, and ecological vibrancy. The State economy consists of economic regions comprised of places ranging from natural to urban, cities and urban places are the key locations for prosperity because they provide the best proximity to knowledge and capital resources. Research data shows that investments in urban places have the best economic, social, and ecological return. A wider range of choice in housing, employment and transportation, combined with mixing buildings, uses, incomes – known as the “form” of places -- is a critical element in determining its success in attracting talent with subsequent entrepreneurial activity benefit, as well as providing the highest opportunity for low/mod income households to benefit across most, if not all economic and social measures. The State has implemented steps to structure its process for investment into vibrant places which sustains long-term economic, social, and ecological prosperity: 1. Raise awareness that long-term, sustainable prosperity is place-based and placemaking is linked to economic development to achieve success; 2. Provide a platform for developing knowledge and practice of the Place-Based Economic Development; 3. Develop and promote place-based investment strategies and projects; and 4. Institutionalize place-based economic development as a principal State policy. These process steps, and the principles underlying them, have been recognized by the HUD Office of Resilience (formerly Sustainable Communities) as a state-level equivalent of the federal Livability principles established by Federal E.O. 13514 & Executive Memorandum 10-21. Previously the State has required local units to demonstrate their revitalization strategies were principal elements contained within their community master plans as prerequisite for use of CDBG funds. In 2012 this standard was enhanced with a “Redevelopment Readiness” analysis/review/certification program. Communities who receive certification from the State are now placed at priority status for State project investments from resources including the Michigan Small Cities CDBG program. Michigan has created the MI-place Partnership Initiative, a State/partner collaborative effort to help communities and neighborhoods develop and implement place-based planning,

programming, and development strategies and projects. This has induced several state departments to work together to align and reshape existing programs for housing, economic development, transportation, brownfield redevelopment, environmental best practices, greenspace, and local food systems toward a targeted, place-based investment system. Partners joined in this effort include state agencies, a Sense of Place Council, regional organizations, state associations, and local units. The State has developed progress metrics for achieving the above steps via a cross-agency/discipline team.