

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Joe Courtney today announced that the Eastern Connecticut Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Consortium has secured a \$225,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Consortium â€” a cooperation of 41 eastern Connecticut communities, two tribal nations, three Regional Planning Organizations and a Workforce Investment Area (WIA), -- will use the grant to analyze and develop a regional development plan. The plan will leverage existing resources from state agencies to produce long-term economic gain through public and private investment.

“The Consortium deserves a great deal of credit for securing an extremely competitive grant under difficult economic circumstances,” said Congressman Courtney. “By working together and focusing their collective resources on economic growth, they are leading the way in turning our economy around, neighborhood by neighborhood.”

HUD awarded only 45 grants nationally to promote smarter and sustainable planning, and it provided funding to just two projects in Connecticut.

“This grant is the result of great regional collaboration between communities, tribal nations, the eastern Connecticut work force investment board and regional planning organizations,” said Mark Paquette, executive director of the Windham Region Council of Governments. “Our selection is a result of working together and focusing on long-term and regional economic improvement.”

These grants are part of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which brings HUD, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency together to ensure that the agencies’ policies, programs, and funding consider affordable housing, transportation, and environmental protection together.