



NEWS ADVISORY:

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<http://www.azcommerce.com>

GRANTS HELP COMMUNITIES ADDRESS GROWTH **Growing Smarter Planning Grants Awarded to Eight Communities**

Arizona Department of Commerce Director Jan Leshar announced approval of eight Growing Smarter Planning Grants (GSPG) to assist communities in meeting state mandated planning requirements in the Growing Smarter/Growing Smarter Plus laws.

“Our goal is to assist communities in growing wisely.” says Director Leshar. “Planning projects that establish a framework for long-term community vitality and economic sustainability work to benefit all of Arizona.”

The GSPG Program has \$60,000 each year to support small and rural communities and counties that endeavor to develop or update general or comprehensive plans, engage in activities that create a public participation program, undertake research and analysis, prepare maps and graphics, and implement the general/comprehensive plan by updating zoning ordinances, capital improvement plans or other specific plans. This year additional funds were leveraged to maximize assistance available bringing the award total to \$80,000.

The eight Growing Smarter Planning Grant awardees for fiscal year 2008 are:

City of Wilcox	\$10,000	General Plan Update
City of Litchfield Park	\$10,000	Citizen Participation Element Implementation of General Plan
Town of Patagonia	\$10,000	General Plan and Code Update
City of San Luis	\$10,000	General Plan Update
Town of Thatcher	\$10,000	General Plan Update
Town of Fountain Hills	\$10,000	General Plan Update
Town of Star Valley	\$10,000	General Plan Creation
City of Bisbee	\$10,000	GIS-Based Planning System

Priority is given to those cities, towns or counties proposing projects that are mandated in order for them to meet Growing Smarter statutory requirements.

"Star Valley was incorporated on the precept of Growing Smarter within our water resource budget," says Star Valley Mayor Chuck Heron. "Being a new community, this funding will help meet the State requirements in creating a General Plan."

For additional information on the Growing Smarter Grant Program and to learn about the next available grant round, please visit the Community Assistance section of the Arizona Department of Commerce website at www.azcommerce.com or contact Heather Garbarino, Senior Planner at (602) 771-1128.