

Arizona Office of Smart Growth

April 2009

The Office of Smart Growth (formerly Community Planning Office) within the Arizona Department of Commerce provides statewide technical assistance and training to Arizona's municipalities, counties, and Tribal communities in areas such as smart growth, sustainability, land use planning, development, zoning, infrastructure, public participation and strategic planning.

Some of the Office's key projects include: coordinating multi-agency outreach and technical assistance efforts to help Arizona communities with their growth challenges and assist them in developing smart growth tools; the formation of a smart growth leadership academy; and facilitating local and regional smart growth workshops. The Office is also establishing a clearinghouse for planning templates and best practices related to smart growth tools and resources, as well as assisting in multi-regional planning and visioning efforts statewide.

The Office of Smart Growth continues to focus on the implementation of the Growing Smarter Acts and the promotion of responsible growth through the Growing Smarter Planning Grant Program, and the provision of staff resources and support to the Governor's Growth Cabinet and the Smart Growth Interagency Committee, and focused local and regional technical assistance. The Office also administers the Military Installation Fund per ARS§ 41-1512.01 (\$4.825 million) through which successful land acquisition or related jurisdictional projects will receive funding.

Professional Planning Technical Assistance

- ❖ Conduct mandated review and comment on general and comprehensive plans & amendments
- ❖ Proactively assist in general and comprehensive plan development, zoning ordinance updates, and public participation program development
- ❖ Participate in technical advisory committees
- ❖ Administer the Growing Smarter Planning Grant Program

Education and Training

- ❖ Organize and conduct training workshops and retreats for councils, commissions, boards, and citizen groups
- ❖ Organize the annual Boards and Commissions Conference
- ❖ Make presentations at various conferences held locally, regionally, and nationally



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Resource Materials

- ❖ Develop topic specific resource materials (i.e. Growing Smarter Highlights, Planning Commission Basics, Planning and Zoning Handbook, etc.)
- ❖ Maintain planning and zoning lending library comprised of municipal and county plans, zoning codes, subdivision codes, design guidelines, etc. from jurisdictions throughout the state
- ❖ Maintain resources acquired from the American Planning Association Planners Bookstore on a variety of subject areas – specific subscriptions include: Planning Commissioners Journal, PAS Reports, Small Town and Rural Planning Division Newsletter, Zoning News, Environment and Development, Public Investment, Planners Casebook, APA Planning Magazine, Zoning Practice, Lincoln Institute Land Lines, Land Use Law and Zoning Digest, Planning & Environmental Law, Livable Places Update, AZ Business Magazine, etc.
- ❖ Research files containing information on over 100 subject areas

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