Michigan Receives $7.1 Million in 2011 HUD Sustainable Communities Awards, Nation's Largest Total

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LANSING, Mich., Nov. 22, 2011 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan today announced the recipients of the 2011 Sustainable Communities Grants, including the nation’s largest combined total of $7.1 million in grants to Michigan that will help communities and regions improve their economic competitiveness by connecting housing with good jobs, quality schools and transportation.

“In Michigan, we understand each community contributes to the overall success of its region,” said Gov. Rick Snyder. “These grants will be used to help our regions create jobs, improve housing, strengthen our transportation systems and restore economic prosperity to help Michigan compete in a global economy.”

The HUD grant recipients in Michigan are Washtenaw County ($3 million), the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission that covers Ingham, Clinton and Eaton counties ($3 million), Northwest Michigan Council of Governments that covers the Grand Traverse region ($660,000), and the City of Grand Rapids (more than $459,000).

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) will provide matching and in-kind contributions as well as state resources through the Interdepartmental Collaboration Council (ICC) to the recipient communities. The HUD grants include:

- The Northwest Michigan Council of Governments was awarded a $660,000 Regional Planning Grant to develop the Grand Vision to Grand Action: Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. The purpose is to augment northwest Lower Michigan's capacity to build economically competitive, healthy, environmentally sustainable, and opportunity-rich communities to create local economies through regional efforts. The plan will improve regional planning efforts that integrate housing, transportation, economic development and environmental infrastructure investment decisions and increase state, regional, and local capacity to incorporate sustainability principles and social equity into community planning. Partners include Northwest Michigan WORKS!, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Michigan Land Use Institute, Traverse Bay Economic Development Corporation, Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, SEEDS Inc., Traverse Bay Poverty Reduction Initiative, Disability Network, Human Services Collaborative Boards, Northwestern Michigan College, and NorthSky Non-Profit Network.