



## ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

Department of Housing and Urban Development – Shaun Donovan, Secretary  
Office of Public Affairs, Washington, DC 20410

**1:15 PM**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2010**

**GREENSBORO FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR AWARDS “FIRST EVER”  
HUD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT OF \$1,600,000  
TO PROMOTE SMARTER AND SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR JOBS AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE ASHEVILLE REGION**

(GREENSBORO) U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Field Office Director Chris Stearns will announce the award of a \$1,600,000 HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant to the Land-of-Sky Regional Council today at the Biltmore Doubletree Hotel in Asheville. This “first-ever” award from HUD is part of an overall \$3.2 million awarded to two North Carolina organizations -- the Land of Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) and the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART).

Mr. Stearns will congratulate the Land-of-Sky Regional Council on their award that will fund the development of a regional plan for sustainable development. The plan will launch an unprecedented community outreach efforts to reach the Region’s diverse, but interrelated rural and urban Appalachian communities. To develop the regional plan, Consortium partners will involve participation from populations that are traditionally left out of regional planning processes (including, but not limited to, rural mountain landowners, farmers, urban minority populations, small business owners, seasonal second homeowners, health care providers) to solicit their input and commitment to the planning process and the final plan.

Reporters are asked to be in place ten minutes prior to the announcement and the news conference will begin shortly after the awards ceremony.

**WHO:** HUD Field Office Director Chris Stearns  
Invitees: Congressman Heath Shuler  
Land-of-Sky Regional Council Local Government Services Director, Ron Townley

**WHAT:** North Carolina Field Office Director Chris Stearns to announce Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant award to Land-of-Sky Regional Council

**WHEN:** October 15, 2010 at 1:15 PM

**WHERE:** Biltmore Doubletree Hotel  
115 Hendersonville Road  
Asheville, NC 28803

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