



Overview

The *Blueprint for American Prosperity* is a multi-year initiative to promote an economic agenda for the nation that builds on the assets—and centrality—of America’s metropolitan areas. It recommends a new federal partnership with state, local, and private sector leaders to strengthen metropolitan economies, build a strong and diverse middle class, and grow in environmentally sustainable ways.

Context: The Economic Landscape and the Window of Opportunity

Metropolitan areas make up 83 percent of the U.S. population and drive the national and global economy. They are our hubs of research and innovation, centers of human capital, ports of commerce and gateways of immigration.

To effectively transition out of this recession and achieve true global prosperity, our nation must give metro areas the tools and flexibilities to leverage key assets of our economy—innovation, infrastructure, human capital, and quality places. By doing so, America’s metropolitan areas will be better armed to address other daunting challenges, such as income inequality, the relentless pressure on natural resources, and demand for unsustainable energy sources.

Action: Advancing a Blueprint for American Prosperity

Several *Blueprint* policies address the immediate economic crisis and the people hardest hit by the current downturn. Others provide a solid foundation for national prosperity in the long term. All of the federal policies urge a new way of doing business to leverage the drivers of prosperity where the economy primarily exists—in the nation’s metro areas.

Some recent examples of policy uptake include recommendations that have been integrated into the federal government’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the president’s FY2010 budget proposal, as well as provisions contained in pending energy and transportation legislation.

Unique from other institutional efforts to inform federal decision-making, the *Blueprint* is rooted outside of Washington, informed leaders around the country.

Specifically, to promote and establish this federal partnership, to turn traction into action, the Metropolitan Policy Program has built two *Blueprint* leadership networks to refine and inform our efforts—the Metropolitan Leadership Council (with 31 current philanthropic leaders) and the Metropolitan Partners network (with 100 current elected, business, university, and other nonprofit leaders).

The federal government cannot set the nation on a path to recovery without these local and regional leaders and partners.

To get there, the federal government must lead, while empowering metropolitan areas and insisting upon maximized performance at every level of government. The result: A prosperous America made up of vibrant metropolitan economies that foster a strong and diverse middle class and promote a more energy independent, sustainable future.

www.blueprintprosperity.org