



Smart Growth Strategies: *Creating Livable, Healthy Communities*



ICF helps local and regional clients define and implement a smart growth agenda.

ICF's smart growth services include:

- Smart growth “wellness” visits—identifying local barriers
- Smart growth zoning strategies
- Infill housing strategies
- Affordable housing strategies
- Jobs/housing balance studies
- Infrastructure capacity assessments
- Land use and transportation linkage studies
- Public participation processes
- Smart growth funding strategies

Smart growth is an umbrella term for land use, community development, and transportation policies that encourage the efficient use of resources while at the same time create vibrant, livable communities.

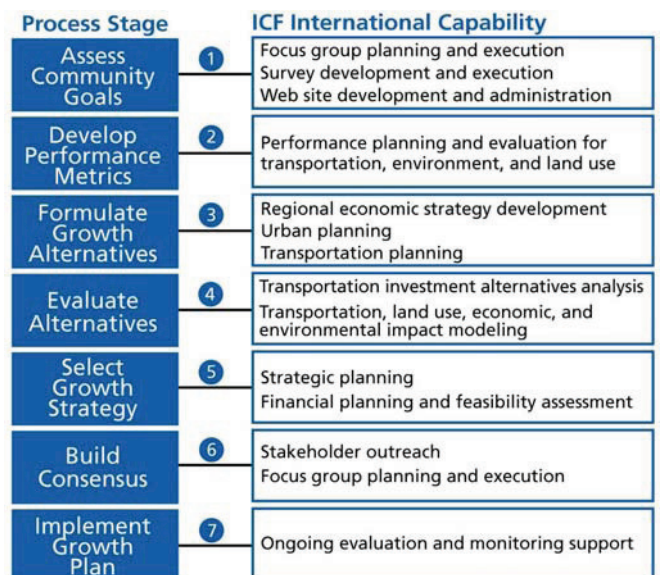
Smart growth is the antithesis of sprawl, and emphasizes channeling new residential and commercial growth and development to communities with existing infrastructure and services. It encourages the creation of dynamic communities by increasing residential and commercial densities, thereby allowing neighborhoods to better support efficient transit systems, well-used parks, and healthy retail centers. Other key tenets of a smart growth agenda include creating a variety of transportation choices; providing pedestrian, bicycle, and transit amenities; providing a range of housing options; and encouraging community and stakeholder involvement in planning processes.

But talking about a smart growth strategy also raises questions about impacts on transportation, the environment, economic development, and quality of life. Governments at all levels face issues, and in many cases challenges, about the impacts of smart growth.

Our Services

ICF International’s (ICF) team of city planners, transportation planners, and economic development specialists helps further your community’s smart growth efforts. ICF combines extensive knowledge of affordable housing and community development with expertise in local land use planning, transportation planning, and economic development. We assist clients with all components of a smart growth initiative.

Creating a viable, smart growth strategy in any community requires collaboration among regional planning organizations, community-based groups, private developers, and local government. ICF’s staff works with your organization to bring all the necessary players to the table and facilitates a collaborative decision-making process.



The chart to the right shows the stages of a comprehensive growth plan development and implementation process. ICF supports you every step of the way.

Featured Solutions

South Bay Cities Infrastructure Capacity Analysis. ICF conducted an infrastructure assessment for the South Bay Cities region of Los Angeles as part of a larger growth visioning effort and jobs/housing balance analysis. ICF analyzed whether the region's existing and planned infrastructure could accommodate the growth in jobs and housing projected for the South Bay, without compromising livability in the region.

Evaluation of the Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) Grant Program. ICF evaluated a Metropolitan Transportation Commission grant program in Oakland, California, which provided funding to capital and planning projects that integrate transit, walking, and bike riding in community design. The evaluation focused on a review of each grant application and a series of focus groups, stakeholder interviews, and end user surveys to determine whether the proposed funded projects furthered the goals of the program.

Transit Village Plan. ICF prepared a redevelopment and relocation strategy to support the implementation of a transit-oriented land use and urban design plan around the Metrolink transit station in Palmdale, California. Our staff analyzed the parcels necessary for acquisition to implement the development scenarios and assessed state and federal relocation requirements.

Transportation and Land Use Alternatives. ICF developed and evaluated transit-supportive land use plans and matched those plans with Georgia Regional Transportation Authority transportation investment scenarios. Our staff compared the plans on various measures of transportation, environmental, and social impact, including equity and accessibility.

Travel and Emissions Impacts of Smart Growth. ICF analyzed the likely impacts of changes in density, diversity, and design at two planned redevelopments in Baltimore and Annapolis for the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Land Use and Transportation Decision Support System. ICF developed a Decision Support System (DSS) for Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization in Burlington, Vermont. The DSS links the county's existing travel model with a GIS-based land use model. The DSS supports both citizen involvement and local and regional planning and outputs a wide variety of indicators of regional performance.

Site Planning Assistance. ICF brought together a team of experts in urban design, transportation, economics, and public participation to present options for developing a major site to city officials in Honolulu, Hawaii. When the city decided to pursue a mixed-use strategy, our staff developed a zoning overlay to help the city achieve its goals.

Water Demand Impacts of Smart Growth. ICF quantified the relative water demands of compact and sprawl development for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Tasks included reviewing best practices and innovations in allowing and recognizing low-demand land use and helping the U.S. EPA develop new regulatory options.

National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. ICF has provided logistical and communications support to this U.S. EPA National Awards Program since it began in 2002. Our staff has worked with winners around the country, including the State of Georgia's Office of Quality Growth, the Metropolitan Council in Minneapolis/St. Paul, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and the City of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Smart Growth Education and Training. ICF produced a variety of education and training materials to support the U.S. EPA smart growth implementation efforts. These materials included a series of case studies to illustrate how smart growth has been promoted through land use, zoning, housing, and transportation policy, and another series to illustrate how smart growth development projects have been implemented.

About ICF International

ICF International (NASDAQ: ICFI) partners with government and commercial clients to deliver consulting services and technology solutions in the energy, climate change, environment, transportation, social programs, health, defense, and emergency management markets. The firm combines passion for its work with industry expertise and innovative analytics to produce compelling results throughout the entire program life cycle, from analysis and design through implementation and improvement. Since 1969, ICF has been serving government at all levels, major corporations, and multilateral institutions. More than 3,000 employees serve these clients worldwide. ICF's Web site is www.icfi.com.

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