SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 1, 2014, the Small Business Administration (SBA)’s Office of Entrepreneurial Development (OED) began the ScaleUp America initiative to expand the delivery of proven best practices in entrepreneurship education to reach more growth-oriented small business owners. Through this initiative, organizations in eight communities across the U.S. have been selected to deliver targeted and intensive assistance to established, growth-oriented small businesses and entrepreneurs. ScaleUp program goals include the growth of participating businesses, the strengthening of local entrepreneurial ecosystems (e.g. the network of supportive resources available to the entrepreneur), and the creation of jobs and economic growth in targeted communities.

SBA is conducting an evaluation of the ScaleUp America initiative to assess the education services provided to the participants, the effect of the assistance on achieving the business goals of the participants, participant satisfaction with the assistance, and lessons learned and recommendations provided by the participants. Through the quarterly and annual reports provided by ScaleUp administrators, SBA has the ability to collect some data on the participants and program activities. However, in order to develop a more systematic analysis on the full range of topics mentioned above, including the participants’ feedback, SBA needs to collect survey and interview data from participants who attended the program, as well as from individual entrepreneurs who are recruited as members of a community-specific comparison group.

Specifically, SBA proposes the use of four instruments for data collection and analysis. These instruments are: (1) Participant Intake Survey, (2) Comparison Group Member Intake Survey and (3) Participant Follow-up Survey. SBA plans to administer each of these survey instruments to more than nine individuals. In addition, SBA plans to interview two participants or community members in each of the eight ScaleUp communities regarding program impact and successes or challenges.

Each of the proposed surveys will be administered electronically and will contain both open- and close-ended questions. The types of information that will be collected in the instruments can be found in the “Summary of Information Collection” section below. Quantitative analysis (the primary method of data analysis for the interview data) will be used on the data collected. Quantitative analysis will consist of univariate and multivariate statistical analyses, while qualitative analysis will consist of establishing clear rules for interpretation and finding themes in the qualitative data. The information collected and analyzed from these instruments will contribute to performance metrics and program goals, as well as recommendations on improving program practices.

Solicitation of Public Comments: Comments may be submitted on (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the agency to properly perform its functions; (b) whether the burden estimates are accurate; (c) whether there are ways to minimize the burden, including through the use of automated techniques or other forms of information technology; and (d) whether there are ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information.


Curtis B. Rich, Management Analyst.


DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Transit Administration
Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Project Selections

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Pilot program for transit-oriented development planning announcement of project selections.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the selection of projects for Fiscal Year 2013 and 2014 funds under the Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning, as authorized under Section 20005(b) of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP–21), Public Law 112–141. On September 4, 2014, FTA published a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) (79 FR 171) announcing the availability of $19.98 million in funding for this program. This program supports comprehensive planning efforts associated with new fixed guideway and core capacity improvement projects to assist project sponsors in the development of information to address FTA’s Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Program evaluation criteria.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Successful applicants should contact the appropriate FTA Regional Office for information regarding applying for the