



Alliance for Regional
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What is Happening in Other Regions?

Indicator Projects Gain Attention of the U. S. Government Accountability Office

Alliance for Regional Stewardship Establishes Regional Indicators Affinity Group to Share Best Practices

Garden City, NY (January 26, 2005) - The Alliance for Regional Stewardship (ARS) has established a Regional Indicators Affinity Group that has been sharing best practices among regional indicator projects across the nation (www.regionalstewardship.org). In addition, the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) has recently prepared a report on indicators that provides an assessment of the state of practice. (*Improving our Nation* GAO-05-01, November 2004). An indicator report provides measurements over time that report on how a region is faring. These indicators identify and track community conditions and measure trends toward shared goals. Indicators often include measures of economic, demographic, transportation, land use, housing, real estate, political and social activities.

ARS and GAO have identified a number of leading regional indicator efforts which include: Chicago Metropolis 2020, Index of Silicon Valley, Jacksonville, Florida Community Indicators, Southern California State of the Region and Boston Indicators:

- *Chicago Metropolis 2020* (www.chicagometropolis2020.org) has recently published its third Index, with a special focus on housing. The Index has been used to develop the Metropolis Principles and the Metropolis Plan which promotes regional housing and transportation strategies that recognize that workers must have housing choices reasonably close to job centers if the economy is to remain robust
- *Joint Venture: Silicon Valley* (www.jointventure.org) has recently published its 11th annual Index of Silicon Valley which measures progress toward the goals of Silicon Valley 2010, a vision document created with input from over 2000 residents. The indicators focus on the innovative economy, livable environment, inclusive society and regional stewardship. Joint Venture has used the Index to

develop specific regional strategies focused on the economy, education, land use and fiscal reform.

- *Jacksonville, Florida Community Council* (www.jcci.org) has published Community Indicators of Progress for 20 years. The Indicators are used by local government to set performance measures as well as the business and nonprofit community to develop regional strategies for the economy and quality of life.
- *Southern California State of the Region* (www.scag.ca.gov) prepared by the Southern California Association of Government since 1998 provides an overall report card on regional economic, housing, transportation land use and quality of life measures that is used as an input to regional planning efforts.
- *Boston Indicators* (www.tbf.org/indicators) sponsored by the Boston Foundation is a comprehensive internet data base that is used by a wide variety of community groups to track trends in the region and develop regional strategies.

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Note: The Alliance for Regional Stewardship

(ARS) is a national, peer-to-peer network of regional stewards who benefit by sharing experiences and working collaboratively on innovative approaches to common regional challenges. ARS is for proven leaders who recognize the interdependencies of their regions' economy, environment, and society and are seeking practical ways to effect change as regional stewards.

These stewards can come from business, government, education, or community sectors, but they share a common commitment to collaborative action and regional stewardship. ARS supports Regional Stewardship by helping leaders learn about best practices from other regions, communicate to state/federal leaders and the media about regional challenges and innovations, and develop new leaders for regional stewardship efforts.