

# FY 2022 Thriving Communities Program

## Selected Capacity Builder Profiles



Capacity Builder Organizations	Community of Practice	Amount Awarded
MZC Foundation, Inc. (Lead), and Arcadis, InfraStrategies, and Beverly Scott Associates	Networked Communities	\$5,100,000
National Main Street Center, Inc. (Lead), and E.L. Robinson, Equiticity, National Association of Development Organizations, Project for Public Spaces, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and Rural Community Assistance Partnership	Main Streets	\$5,900,000
Rocky Mountain Institute (Lead), and American Council for Energy-Efficient Economy, CivicWell, Equitable Cities, ioby, Nelson/Nygaard, and Shared-Use Mobility Center	Complete Neighborhoods	\$5,100,000
WSP USA, Inc. (Lead), and Accelerator for America, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and Sidewalk Infrastructure Partners	Complete Transit-Oriented Neighborhoods	\$5,050,000

*Selected Capacity Builder organizations and award amounts.*

## MZC Foundation, Inc.

**Contacts:** Christina Willingham ([christina@theray.org](mailto:christina@theray.org)) and Beverly West ([Beverly@theray.org](mailto:Beverly@theray.org))

USDOT has awarded MZC Foundation, Inc. \$5.1 million to support 15 communities in the **Networked Communities Community of Practice**. The [MZC Foundation, Inc.](#) (doing business as “The Ray”) has partnered with [Arcadis](#), [InfraStrategies](#), and [Beverly Scott and Associates](#) to help communities build skills and capacity to create efficient, effective, safe, environmentally sound, resilient, sustainable, and equitable transportation systems for everyone. The team has demonstrated experience working with local, state, and regional government agencies and community groups and has an extensive network of public, private, and philanthropic industry professionals that can be leveraged for innovative and cutting-edge technologies and practices. The technical assistance and capacity building approach includes support for all stages of the transportation decision-making process, including pre-construction, procurement and contract administration, and construction and operations, with funding allocated for direct support to communities. The approach centers on equity, community leadership, and workforce development to ensure long-lasting, community-driven transportation solutions.

## National Main Street Center, Inc.

**Contacts:** Matt Wagner ([MWagner@savingplaces.org](mailto:MWagner@savingplaces.org)) and Jenna Temkin ([JTemkin@savingplaces.org](mailto:JTemkin@savingplaces.org))

USDOT has awarded [National Main Street Center, Inc.](#) \$5.9 million to support 20 communities in the **Main Streets Community of Practice**. The National Main Street Center and its partners – [E.L. Robinson](#), [Equiticity](#), the [National Association of Development Organizations](#), [Project for Public Spaces](#), [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](#), and the [Rural Community Assistance Partnership](#) – will support equitable rural and Tribal commercial district development anchored with transformative transportation projects and help downtowns in rural and Tribal areas develop an awareness of Federal opportunities, prepare community leaders to implement infrastructure and community development projects, and build lasting local capacity for carrying out projects. The Capacity Building team will provide subgrants to each community over the two-year period of support. The team will match technical assistance providers with communities based on assessment results and will provide specialized grant assistance from application to project execution. The coalition of partners on this Capacity Builder team brings wide-ranging technical expertise and experience with a particularly strong emphasis on equity practices and has a demonstrated ability to build networks across diverse geographies.

## Rocky Mountain Institute

**Contact:** Ben Holland ([bholland@rmi.org](mailto:bholland@rmi.org))

USDOT has awarded [the Rocky Mountain Institute](#) \$5.1 million to support 15 communities in the **Complete Neighborhoods Community of Practice**. The Rocky Mountain Institute, in partnership with [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy](#), [CivicWell](#), [Equitable Cities](#), [ioby](#), [Nelson\Nygaard](#), and [Shared-Use Mobility Center](#), will provide subgrants to each community to fund resident and community organization leadership and participation in

planning, visioning, and implementation activities; host collaborative design workshops and regular convenings across the Community of Practice; and provide ongoing, individualized deep-dive support to communities based on their unique needs and visions. The Capacity Builder team brings robust expertise in multimodal planning and design, environmental analysis, and emerging transportation technologies, positioning the team to realize the goals of the communities and provide an adaptable approach for creating a network of equitable, accessible, and thriving communities with a focus on improving multimodal transportation options and improving reliable and safe transportation for all users.

## WSP USA Inc.

**Contact:** Jennifer Pangborn ([j.pangborn@wsp.com](mailto:j.pangborn@wsp.com))

USDOT has awarded [WSP USA, Inc.](#) \$5.05 million to support 14 communities in the **Complete Transit-Oriented Neighborhoods Community of Practice**. WSP USA Inc. and its partners – [Accelerator for America](#), [North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University](#), and [Sidewalk Infrastructure Partners](#) – have practical, hands-on experience working with all levels of government delivering innovative solutions and cutting-edge research while leveraging local expertise and community insights. The Capacity Builder team will fund community-based organizations and disadvantaged business enterprise partners with diverse skills and relationships throughout the country that bring specialized, region-specific technical assistance and community engagement capabilities. The team’s technical assistance approach includes working with communities to grow their technical and grant management skillsets and long-term equitable development capacity through an individually tailored “do + teach + grow = empower” framework that includes access to a suite of analytics tools, playbooks, and pro forma financial models.