



OFFICE OF
PLANNING AND
QUALITY GROWTH

Quality Growth RESOURCE TEAMS

“The real voyage of discovery and change does not consist in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.”

Mercel Proust

What is it?

Quality Growth Resource Teams help communities find solutions to their growth and development issues, and learn about innovative planning practices and “smart growth” concepts. These on-site visits by a team of volunteer experts are organized by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Resource team volunteers include both private consultants who are considered experts in their fields and highly knowledgeable staff from DCA and other state agencies. At little cost to the host community, these volunteers give a broad range of recommendations and solutions to the community’s specific planning-related issues.

What good will it do?

Typical issues addressed during a resource team visit include the following:

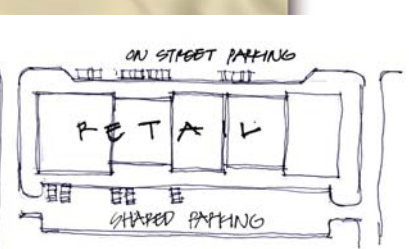
- ▶ Reviewing local development regulations for barriers to smart growth.
- ▶ Improving walkability in the community.
- ▶ Finding opportunities for mixed-use and traditional neighborhood development.
- ▶ Upgrading the appearance of strip commercial corridors.
- ▶ Reducing public incentives that promote the development of sprawl.
- ▶ Taking advantage of local amenities to foster balanced economic growth.
- ▶ Encouraging the revitalization of downtown and older in-town neighborhoods.

- ▶ Finding opportunities for infill development and the reuse of under-utilized structures.

How does it work?

The resource team normally spends four full days in the community, working intensively to develop ideas. Because the team consists of members from diverse backgrounds, it can develop ideas that relate to land use, environmental protection, economic growth, historic preservation, transportation and many other issues. The team’s recommendations are presented to local officials on the final day of the visit, and then compiled into a final report which is provided to the community about six weeks later.

DCA coordinates the team visit, handles logistics, and prepares the final report. DCA staff meet with local officials about two months prior to a visit to discover what is needed in a particular community; team members are then recruited so as to create the ideal mix of skills. A typical resource team is composed of ten to twenty volunteers from the various organizations, including the state university system, and public or private sector planning, design and development organizations. After the visit is over DCA regional staff and volunteers stay in touch with the community, offering follow-up assistance. The visits are producing “real world” successes, as communities utilize the ideas generated by the teams.





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Related publications

Best Practices Toolkit

*Planning for Quality
Growth: Principles,
Objectives, and Goals*

*Quality Growth
Assistance Menu*

*Quality Growth Training
Opportunities*

What is Quality Growth?

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it”

Immanuel Kant

The community's costs for hosting a resource team visit are minimal. Team members are not paid, but meals, accommodations, and hospitality for the visit are typically provided by the community. DCA covers all other expenses, including the travel costs of team members. The community is expected to provide meeting facilities for the visit, including a work space for the team (with telephones and a copy machine) and locations for a stakeholder input meeting and the final presentation meeting.

To be selected for a resource team, a community must demonstrate leadership, commitment and resources for implementing smart growth solutions. To nominate your community, visit DCA's website and complete the nomination form. Resource team reports from previous visits are also available online.

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