



Utah Quality Growth Communities

...a program to recognize and encourage better community planning

Creating our Best Tomorrow

Purpose



The purpose of this initiative is to bring state funding for infrastructure improvements into alignment with the Quality Growth Principles that were adopted by the Quality Growth Commission:

- *To provide priority funding for communities that choose to be designated.*
- *To provide recognition to communities that plan for the future.*
- *To help local governments to do what they do better.*
- *To direct state infrastructure funds to designees.*
- *To encourage local governments to deliver services efficiently.*

Vision



A Quality Growth Community creates a responsible balance between the protection of natural resources - land, air, and water - and the requisite development of residential, commercial, and industrial land to accommodate our expanding economy and population.

It integrates multiple housing choices with commercial areas and preservation of critical land. Quality Growth Communities also use infrastructure, natural resources, and public resources efficiently.

A Quality Growth Community recognizes the impact it has on neighboring communities and seeks to cooperate to solve common problems while protecting private property rights.

Designation



Quality Growth Communities get recognition and priority for State funding.

- Designation is voluntary, incentive based, and technically assisted.
- A community that does not meet these requirements will not be designated.
- Not every requirement applies to every community.

For purposes of designation, a community is a political subdivision, but multiple communities may cooperate to meet the requirements for designation on a regional basis.

Requirements



A community must enact plans and ordinances in the areas of:

- Economic Development
- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Conservation Ethic



Principles of Quality Growth

**Local Responsibility:**

Local governments are responsible for planning and land use decisions in their own jurisdictions in coordination and cooperation with other government entities.

State Leadership:

The State's role is to provide planning assistance, technical assistance, information and incentives for local governments to coordinate and cooperate in the management of growth.

Conservation Ethic:

The public sector, private sector and the individual should cooperate to protect and conserve water, air, critical lands, important agricultural lands, and historical resources.

**Housing Opportunity:**

Housing choices and housing affordability are quality of life priorities and state and local governments should cooperate with the private sector to encourage both.

Economic Development:

The State shall promote a healthy statewide economy and quality of life that supports a broad spectrum of opportunity.

Efficient Infrastructure Development:

State and local governments and the private sector should cooperate to encourage development that promotes efficient use of infrastructure and water and energy resources.

Foundations for the Programs



- Utahns value quality of life.
- Growth creates challenges and opportunities.
- Private property and other individual rights will be respected.
- A solution for one community may not apply to all communities.
- Free-market forces are important in addressing challenges.
- State government should not impose requirements on local governments without adequate resources or appropriate incentives.

Pilot Program and Benefits



State Agencies working with the Quality Growth Commission to develop pilot programs for priority funding:

- Dept. of Environmental Quality, Division of Drinking Water & Division of Water Quality
Favorable terms on water loans
- Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources
Favorable terms on water loans
- Department of Community & Economic Development
Preferred access to CDBG and CIB funds
- Department of Transportation
Preferred access to transportation enhancement and safe sidewalks funds
- Quality Growth Commission
Preferred access to LeRay McAllister Funds

Additional partners and benefits will be added over time.