

Technical Assistance for Nuclear Communities Program

The Technical Assistance for Nuclear Communities program helps communities plan for a more resilient future when their plant is no longer operating. Our team supports a host community's journey toward a diverse and prosperous economic future through a wide range of capacity-building resources. These services are provided at no cost to a host community. The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) may have additional financial resources to help communities adjust.

Regardless of the actual plant closure (past, present, or future) we have found that host communities benefit from engaging with our team. It is never too early to start considering the impact of the closure, identifying infrastructure improvements, and developing project concepts in preparation for decommissioning. Our approach combines education and strategy, technical assistance, and best practice elements tailored to each community's particular needs and goals.

In order to identify the best support for each community, a series of conversations and initial assessments with local and regional stakeholders will help determine how a community may be impacted, its goals and interests in building on strengths and assets, and the most effective approach based on its stage of closure or economic resilience planning. These may include (but are not limited to) the following services and resources:

We are pursuing partnerships with

1

Communities currently addressing the active or scheduled closure of a local nuclear power plant

2

Nuclear-host communities seeking to plan for economic resilience in preparation for a future plant closure

Services and Resources

Support understanding the decommissioning process and how it can be leveraged

Formal strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis

Stakeholder engagement and communications; visioning strategies

Land use, zoning, and housing stock assessments

Underutilized sites and brownfields assessments

Economic development strategies and diversification (local and regional); enhancing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Economic impact analysis; fiscal hotspot analysis

Analysis of employment industries

Preparations for pursuing federal funds

Marketing and messaging

Phases of nuclear closure or resiliency planning

Wherever your community is in this process, it is critical to understand decommissioning, the economic impacts that follow, and what you can/cannot influence. While the utility or decommissioning company will maintain control of the majority of the site for the foreseeable future, work can be done to prepare and adjust ahead of those events. As your community considers its future, our team can provide free support around how to leverage the economic power brought by significant resources spent on decommissioning and how to bring benefits to the community to help chart a sustainable economic future.

PLANNING PHASE

Little or no economic planning has been done in anticipation of or in response to closure. Where do I start?

- Understanding the decommissioning process and assessing its economic impacts
- Engaging the community: education, visioning, and advocacy
- Stakeholder outreach and regional coordination
 - Encouraging relationships with Economic Development Districts (EDDs)
- Enhancing the CEDS to better reflect challenges posed by plant closures
- Best practices in economic diversification, resilience planning, and rural wealth creation strategies

EVALUATION PHASE

Community is planning for or responding to closure or planning a resiliency strategy and has done some analysis of impacts and assets. Looking for assistance to prepare to apply for funds.

- Utilize SWOT to scope out additional needs and move toward project identification and development
- Employment market and tax base assessments
- Economic & fiscal analysis
- Identifying brownfields and land reclamation within the community
- Zoning, land use, and real estate market considerations

ACTION PHASE

Community has done regional planning and identified scenarios or opportunities for economic diversification.

- Workforce development
- Talent retention
- Identifying underutilized sites/land
 - Brownfields assessments
 - Identifying regulatory challenges, roadblocks
 - Site assessment tools
- Main Streets; Downtown redevelopment strategies

To inquire about partnering with the team on behalf of your community, please fill out the contact form at www.SmartGrowthAmerica.org/nuclear