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NSDI Community/Federal Information Partnership

The Nation's communities are calling for greater assistance in dealing with issues that affect their economic, social, and environmental well being. Many of the problems transcend local jurisdictional boundaries and are best addressed by place-based approaches that require consensus among many stakeholder groups. Communities are looking for leadership, information, and support from the Federal Government. In many cases ready access to coordinated geographic data from all levels of government and private industry is essential for communities to identify key issues and take necessary actions.

The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) is the linkage of technology, policies, standards, and resources that are necessary to improve the way geospatial data is acquired, stored, processed, disseminated, and used. The NSDI is being developed by many organizations throughout the country in response to a recommendation in the Vice President's National Performance Review. The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has provided guidance for this effort and considerable progress has been made but much work remains.

The Community/Federal Information Partnership (C/FIP) is being developed by the 17 federal agencies that make up the FGDC in cooperation with organizations from State, local, and Tribal

governments, the academic community, and the private and non-profit sectors. The initiative will have two integrated components:

- ◆ A competitive matching grant program to help promote the widespread availability and use of geographic data for community problem solving. This component will increase the capacity of communities to create and use geographic data in decision making.
- ◆ Support for Federal agencies to make their geographic data more readily available to communities. This component will help ensure the full and rapid implementation of the NSDI in a cost-effective and cooperative manner.

The aim of the partnership is to build on the comprehensive, integrated, nationwide National Spatial Data Infrastructure and improve accessibility to all Americans.

America's communities need spatially referenced earth and biological science data to make informed decisions about their futures . . . information partnerships with federal agencies provide the essential data they need.