

## Stellar Communities Program Definitions

Call for Letters—First outreach to communities in the form of an announcement.

Letter of Interest - This should not be confused with “Letter of Intent” which has an intended action step. A Letter of Interest is merely a communication letter from the Chief Elected Official that provides a holistic environmental scan, answers questions and communicates a vision.

Finalist Community---This designation is given by the state team to a community to advance to the process whereby the community has to put together a strategic investment plan.

Strategic Investment Plan---is a document for which the community will be evaluated in the finalist process. This should not be confused with a “Stellar Application” or “Stellar Grant”. There is no such thing.

Site Visit---This is a critical step in the finalist phase where the state team attends the community to physically look over the project area and get a clearer idea. The site visit can last up to three hours maximum but not necessarily has to be three hours.

Designated Community---this is the result of a community being elevated to a status of non-competitive funding for the 3 program years.

Funding Streams---The Stellar Community Program is a program that takes a portion of agency regular funding streams and commits to funding a designated community. The program brings a competitive process to the forefront so communities do not have to compete on a year-by-year basis which communities find challenging. Designated communities must demonstrate capacity to complete the program and realize the funding streams are taken out of regular funds of the agencies (e.g. there is no special allocation or “Stellar Grant”). Designated communities must also understand that while they are receiving these regular streams that they are not eligible for other regular agency programs.