

UCGIS RECEIVES GRANT FROM HUD

UCGIS has received a \$250,000 grant from the Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development. The objective of the grant, *Global Indicators: An Analysis of Urban Indicators Using Geographic Information Science*, is to establish and develop an international collaborative network between American universities and universities in the developing world using GIS-based urban indicators for urban policy research. Selected member universities will develop web-based training programs on the application of geographic information systems for urban policy and decision-making using indicators of urban quality. A UCGIS RFP is currently open and soliciting proposals from member institutions to support the grant's research effort. Information on the proposal application process is available on the UCGIS web page <http://www.ucgis.org>.

UCGIS will be developing a global network to disseminate the training materials created to support this project. One of the first tasks for the members of the network will be to establish a quantitative baseline of data for major cities in the developing world. It will also put into place mechanisms for the systematic collection of the data to monitor change and assist in developing and evaluating policies and programs to improve housing and living conditions. UCGIS will form a working relationship with the United Nations Habitat program to support this effort.

ESRI, a UCGIS private affiliate, is supporting this grant through software contributions to participating member institutions and international university partners. Each participating university will receive ARC IMS and ARC SDE to facilitate publishing the urban indicator data on the Internet. In addition, ESRI will donate \$2,500,000 worth of GIS software to cities and universities in developing countries in cooperation with UCGIS and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) and its Global Urban Observatory Urban Indicators Program.

UCGIS will host two symposia in support of the project. The first symposium will be held on February 2nd and 3rd, 2001, in Washington DC. Principal Investigators, HUD officials and other outside experts, including United Nations officials, will be invited to discuss implementation of the project.

UCGIS anticipates that this program will be expanded beyond the original five sets of university partnerships and that it will be a multi-year effort. To that end, UCGIS is exploring other opportunities for continued funding. For more information, contact Suzy Jampoler at execdir@ucgis.org.