

## USDN Innovation Fund Supporting Multi-Phase Projects

### **In 2014, the USDN Innovation Fund supported “next phase” projects built on earlier grant awards and products - a new way of helping members develop their innovations.**

In 2014, the USDN Innovation Fund Steering Committee piloted Phase 2 funding for projects within the innovation portfolio that were showing good progress and ready for next steps. The RFP and technical assistance stressed that designing projects that can be phased can allow the innovation to develop without a lot of risk in the initial investment.

Two grant projects relating to sustainable consumption, led by the City of Eugene, helped USDN and the Innovation Fund secure additional funding from the Garfield Foundation to continue this work in 2015, as a match to a “Phase 2” continuation grant.

Other Next Phase projects include:

- **Civic Technology Scan:** A scan across different city sizes, NGOs, foundations, and private development firms to reveal the ways in which civic technologies are being developed and to create an agenda and list of participants for a convening proposal around the topic. This grant was an offshoot of the Smart Cities 1.0 conversation and presented the opportunity to delve into the citizen outreach side of technology.
- **Smart Parking:** Design and convene a 2-day work session that builds on the 2013 Sustainable Parking Convening, focusing on better land use through the implementation of public-private parking models. This grant built on the initial Breakthrough Convening, which resulted in 12 next steps.
- **Compostable Plastics:** Develop a promotional plan to advertise the online Compostable Plastics toolkit to the USDN member cities and the United States Composting Council (USCC). Phase 1 built on and tested the toolkit, and Phase 2 was identified to spread the tool to a broader audience.
- **Smart Cities:** Examine opportunities to partner with an existing effort, or to design a new model for cities to collectively advance their smart cities work through targeted knowledge-sharing and project implementation. Phase 1 revealed that there is much work to be done by cities to define their technology strategies and partnerships. Phase 2 will address this.