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The <u>Casa Grande Caribe</u> (The Caribbean Grand House) initiative was conceived as a strategy to overcome the regional social backwardness of the Colombian Caribbean. This work contains studies that estimate investment needed in education, nutrition, health, and water and sewage to close the regional gap. The total cost of this proposal is estimated at USD 16 billion over a twelve-year period. It also includes an analysis of the sources of financing and the quality of regional social spending in order to identify possible resources to finance it and the improvements required in its execution. The calculations allow to affirm that the region could have sufficient funds for these proposals; however, the

results will only be possible with the appropriate management by local public administrators and citizen participation in monitoring investments.