



**Community  
Planning Program**



Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning

**Local Technical  
Assistance Program**

**Application form:  
Community Planning program and  
Local Technical Assistance program**

**DEADLINE: Noon on Wednesday, June 26, 2013**

This application form is online at [www.rtachicago.com/applications](http://www.rtachicago.com/applications). You may submit the form by email to [applications@rtachicago.com](mailto:applications@rtachicago.com).

Upon receipt of application, you will receive an e-mail verifying that your application has been received.

**1. Name of Applicant:** Cook County Bureau of Economic Development

**2. Main Contact for Application (please include name, phone number and email):** Elaine Romas, Special Assistant – Legal Affairs, 312-603-1016, [elaine.romas@cookcountyl.gov](mailto:elaine.romas@cookcountyl.gov)

**3. Type of Applicant (please check any that apply):**

Local government

Multijurisdictional group\*  $\longrightarrow$  Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nongovernmental organization\*  $\longrightarrow$  Name of local government partner(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Applications submitted by multijurisdictional groups and nongovernmental organizations must include a letter indicating support from each relevant local government. See the FAQs for more information. Nongovernmental applicants are strongly encouraged to contact CMAP or the RTA prior to submitting their application to discuss their project and the demonstration of local support.

#### 4. Project Type (please check any that apply):

Please check all statements below that describe characteristics of your project. (This will help us determine whether your project is best handled by CMAP or RTA.)

- My project involves preparation of a plan.
- My project helps to implement a past plan.
- My project links land use, transportation, and housing.
- My project has direct relevance to public transit and supports the use of the existing transit system.
- My project is not directly related to transportation or land use, but implements GO TO 2040 in other ways.

#### 5. Project Location:

Please provide a brief description of the location of your project. You may include a map if that helps to describe location, but this is not required. If your project helps to implement a past plan, please include a link to that plan.

Cook County, Illinois is the location of our project. The 2010 CEDS can be accessed via the attached link: [http://cookcountygov.com/taxonomy/CommunityDevelopment/General%20Information/cc\\_CEDS\\_2009.pdf](http://cookcountygov.com/taxonomy/CommunityDevelopment/General%20Information/cc_CEDS_2009.pdf)

## 6. Project Description:

**Please tell us what you would like to do in your community, and what assistance is needed.** If you have more than one idea, please submit a separate application for each project. Please be specific, but also brief (less than two pages per project idea)—we simply want to have a basic understanding of what you want to do. CMAP and RTA staff will follow-up with you if we need any additional information to fully understand your proposed project.

### **PROPOSED PROJECT: *Cook County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy***

**Summary:** The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development seeks to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that brings together the public and private sectors to create a roadmap to diversify and strengthen the County's economy. Every 5 years, the County is required to submit a CEDS to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to be eligible for funding assistance under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965. Cook County is requesting CMAP assistance with the development of its CEDS.

#### ***Background on Federal Agency and CEDS Requirements***

**Economic Development Administration (EDA):** The EDA is a Federal agency that provides grants to economically-distressed communities to generate new employment, retain existing jobs and stimulate industrial and commercial growth. EDA assistance is available to rural and urban areas experiencing high unemployment, low income, or other severe economic distress. The stated mission is to "lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy."

**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):** As its name implies, a CEDS lays out a regional strategy for economic development with the ultimate goal being a stronger, more diverse regional economy. While the CEDS' most critical function is to provide a regional economic development framework, it also serves as a required vehicle through which the EDA and other federal agencies evaluate requests for grant assistance. Cook County must have an EDA-approved CEDS to be eligible to apply for and receive EDA grants.

**CEDS Required Information:** The CEDS process helps community leaders examine strengths and obstacles in a region and devise a development strategy maximizing wealth and employment over time. The EDA emphasizes that the CEDS is a planning process, not only a report to be produced every five years to meet funding requirements. The CEDS must include the following information:

- Background of Region's Economy
- Analysis of Economic Development and Opportunities
- CEDS Goals and Objectives
- Community and Private Sector Participation
- Strategic Projects, Programs and Activities
- CEDS Plan of Action
- Performance Measures

The key to an effective CEDS is an ongoing, participatory planning process with input and direction from CEDS Strategy Committee members and stakeholders. The CEDS Strategy Committee must include:

- Public and Private Sector Representatives
- Public Officials
- Community Leaders

- Representatives of Workforce Development Boards
- Representatives of Institutions of Higher Education
- Minority and Labor Group and
- Private Individuals

### *County CEDS Plan of Action Advancing GO TO 2040*

**Eligibility/Advancement of Go to 2040:** In developing a CEDS, Cook County seeks to complement and enhance other regional or local plans such as *Go to 2040*, by identifying critical needs, developing goals and objectives, leveraging resources, and implementing strategies to benefit local communities and their residents. The EDA mandates that the CEDS Plan of Action implements goal and objectives that:

- Promote economic development and opportunity
- Foster effective transportation access
- Enhance and protect the environment
- Maximize effective development and use of the workforce consistent with the County's local workforce investment strategy
- Promote the use of technology in economic development, including access to high-speed telecommunications
- Balance resources through sound management of physical development
- Obtain and utilize adequate funds and other resources

Specifically, the CEDS will advance the following *Go to 2040* components:

- **Livable Communities**
  - Achieve greater livability through land use and housing

*The CEDS will balance resources through sound management of physical development.*

- **Human Capital**
  - Improve education and workforce development
  - Support economic innovation

*The CEDS will maximize effective development and use of the workforce consistent with the County's local workforce investment strategy. The CEDS will contain a section which identifies strategic projects and the projected number of jobs each project will create and/or retain. The CEDS Performance Measures will include number of jobs created and retained.*

- **Efficient Governance**
  - Improve access to information
  - Pursue coordinated investments

*The CEDS will engage a broad group of stakeholders including community and private sector participants. The CEDS must contain a section that discusses the methodology for integrating the CEDS with the State of Illinois' economic development priorities.*

- **Regional Mobility**
  - Invest strategically in transportation
  - Increase commitment to public transit
  - Create a more efficient freight network

*The CEDS will foster effective transportation access. It will also identify and analyze economic clusters within the region which will include our logistics and freight network.*

**Geographic Scope:** The CEDS will encompass Cook County, the largest county in Illinois and the second largest County in the nation.

**Leverage:** The County will provide in-kind support primarily in the form of personnel and related fringe benefits. County staff will serve as the liaison to EDAC, coordinate the activities of the Strategy Committee and assist in drafting the CEDS.

**Mandates:** The County's ability to receive EDA assistance funding is contingent upon development and submittal of a CEDS to EDA at least every five years. The CEDS serves as a required vehicle through which the EDA and other federal agencies evaluate requests for grant assistance. Cook County must have an EDA-approved CEDS to be eligible to apply for and receive EDA grants.

**Scope of Work:** CMAP assistance is specifically being requested as it relates to the assembly and analysis of required plan data and mapping, specifically as it relates to:

- Background of Region's Economy
- Analysis of Economic Development and Opportunities

CMAP will also be asked to provide input on the following:

- CEDS Goals and Objectives
- Strategic Projects, Programs and Activities
- CEDS Plan of Action
- Performance Measures

**Timing/Implementation Plan:** The 2015-2019 CED is due to EDA by February 5, 2015. If this grant request is successful, the CEDS development process would commence immediately. CMAP technical assistance would ensure that the CEDS will be prepared and implemented ahead of schedule. This would help to ensure that the CEDS more accurately reflects evolving needs and priorities as well as more effectively allocates limited available resources in a manner that will more directly support implementation of the *GO TO 2040 Plan*.