



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. You may submit the form by email to applications@rtachicago.com.

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

1. Name of Applicant: Kane County

Multi-Department application:

- Development & Community Services Department
- Health Department
- Division of Transportation

2. Main Contact for Application (please include name, phone number and email):

Mark D. VanKerkhoff, AIA, Director
 Kane County Development & Community Services Department
 719 Batavia Avenue
 Geneva, IL 60134
 (630) 232-3451
 vankerkhoffmark@co.kane.il.us

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):

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.

Kane County proposes this project to introduce and utilize an emerging planning tool, **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)**. HIA is a method of assessing how a plan, program, or policy will affect the overall health of a population.

By definition, a HIA is designed to inform policy makers *before* a plan, program or policy is adopted. In light of this, this application does not yet identify the topic of the HIA, so that the HIA selected may be timed with the proposed review and approval process of the plan, program or policy selected. **The actual location and topic will be selected within 90 days of the RTA/CMAP award announcement for 2014 LTA projects.**

The proposed HIA would be for a specific plan, program or policy and will involve a community or communities in Kane County. The topic of study for the HIA will be a plan, program or policy that directly implements the CMAP GO TO 2040 Plan and the Kane County 2040 Plan. It will be selected by the Kane County multi-department, multi-disciplinary team and CMAP.

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.

(Please include any additional information that is relevant, preferably by providing links to online documents.)

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project proposes to use an emerging planning tool, **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)**, a method of assessing how a plan, program, or policy will affect the overall health of a population. **Of all HIA's completed or in progress nationally, 89 out of the total of 238 (37%) access plans and policies that impact the built environment, land use, housing and transportation. Communities, counties, regions and states across the country are using this tool to inform policy makers before decisions are finalized.**

Illinois is way behind the rest of the nation in the use of HIA as a planning tool. The Health Impact Project lists a total of 238 HIA projects as being either completed or in progress (172 are complete and 66 are in progress). **This means that with only 4 HIAs, Illinois only accounts for only 1.6% of all HIAs completed or underway nationally.**

Currently, Kane County's multi-department, multi-disciplinary team is **one of only three HIAs in the State of Illinois** to receive funding and training as part of a national "Health Impact Project" to promote and train communities in undertaking HIA's. <http://www.healthimpactproject.org/hia/us>

Kane County proposes to use the training received and experience we gained to partner with and train CMAP staff by undertaking a HIA as a joint pilot project and example for promoting the use of HIA in the region. In doing so, Kane County, CMAP and the region will benefit by learning about this emerging planning tool and aware of potential funding sources.

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ASSISTANCE REQUESTED FROM CMAP

Kane County's creation of the **Kane County Planning Cooperative** as a means to implement the *Kane County 2040 Plan* and **CMAP's GO TO 2040 Plan** has also proven to be an effective means to partner with CMAP in LTA projects. **This partnership has allowed both Kane County and our communities leverage our resources in partnership with CMAP.** In the case of the two "*Homes for a Changing Regions*" studies currently underway, CMAP's and its partners' resources are being leveraged by training Kane County staff how to provide technical staff support for one of the two studies covering a total of 8 municipalities.

This project proposes to return the favor by having Kane County staff, recently trained by a national grant through the Health Impact Project, partner with CMAP to jointly undertake a HIA as a pilot project and example for promoting the use of HIA for the region. The plan, program or policy will involve a community or communities in Kane County, to be determined by the Kane County multi-department, multi-disciplinary team and CMAP.

Kane County is requesting that CMAP provide staff, outreach, website, and publishing resources for the project. Kane County proposes to provide staff, training and project coordination.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a method of assessing how a plan, program, or policy will affect the overall health of a population. It is a flexible process which can be changed to fit the needs of an organization. Health Impact Assessment helps policy makers analyze potential health impacts by bringing together scientific data, health expertise and public input to identify the potential health effects of proposed new laws, policies, projects and plans. **Results from the HIA provide recommendations to decision makers** that lead to better health outcomes and mitigate potential threats to public health.

The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) and [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#), is a national initiative designed to promote the use of health impact assessments (HIAs) as a decision-making tool for policymakers. HIAs use a flexible, data-driven approach that identifies the health consequences of new policies and develops practical strategies to enhance their health benefits and minimize adverse effects.

In 2011, the County launched the “Quality of Kane” initiative, which recognized the importance of integrating health, land use, and transportation planning to better serve its residents. Planning staff from the three disciplines work together to ensure that the county reaches its vision of having the “healthiest residents in Illinois by 2030.” Building upon the County Board’s direction to integrate planning efforts, health was included in the County’s 2040 Plan both as a chapter and as the overarching theme of the Plan: *Healthy People, Healthy Living, Healthy Communities*.

As a way to continue this planning collaboration, the Kane County Health Department and Development & Community Services Department jointly applied for and were awarded a grant in 2011 to undergo training and conduct an HIA. The HIA team is examining the potential health impacts of an amendment to the county’s Farmland Protection Program. The proposed amendment, an implementation strategy of the county’s 2040 Plan, will expand eligibility criteria to include small food producing farms, and ensure that acreage remains available for local food production. At present, 100% of participants in the farm protection program are conventional row crop and livestock producers situated in rural Kane. This policy balances investment in permanent farmland protection in all planning regions (food and farms, critical growth, and sustainable urban corridors) and encourages local food production for the benefit of population health.

The Kane County HIA examines the following health indicators: obesity, chronic disease, life expectancy, social and emotional wellness, increased attention in school/day care, and health disparities with vulnerable populations. Other HIAs have looked at different indicators, including air quality, community safety, injuries, water quality, noise pollution, and physical activity. To see the draft report and an overview of the HIA process, see the project website at: <http://www.kanehealth.com/hia.htm>

How HIA can be used:

- Comprehensive plans, specific chapter, targeted area, entire report
- New subdivision proposals
- Redevelopment plans (parks, housing projects, bridges, downtown districts)
- Watershed plans
- Placement/maintenance of community gardens
- Bike/Pedestrian plans
- Transit Oriented Development plans
- Complete streets policies
- Transit stop locations, changes to transit systems
- New housing plans (air quality, noise, walkability)

- Locating new schools