



McHENRY COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

McHENRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
2200 N. SEMINARY AVENUE
WOODSTOCK, IL 60098
(815) 334 4221
FAX (815) 338 3991

June 24, 2013

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn
Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, IL. 60606

Re: Submission for a Technical Assistance Request from McHenry County

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn,

McHenry County is pleased to submit a request for CMAP planning assistance under the Local Technical Assistance Program. The request for the development of a countywide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) comes at an important time for local economies in the State of Illinois. The effort to development achievable and sustainable economic growth by nurturing existing businesses and attaching matching industries is critical for local economies to expand in the future.

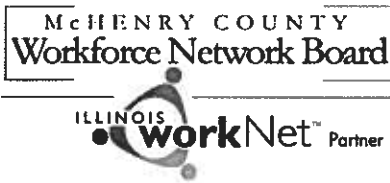
This inclusive effort consists of a multi-jurisdictional group of stakeholders involved in the economic growth the McHenry County. The McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, McHenry County College, and McHenry County Workforce Investment Board represents the best of public and private sectors coming together to develop a common, unified vision for the continued strategic economic development of McHenry County.

I look forward to adding the Chicago Metropolitan Agency to Planning as one of our partners as we embark upon this exciting vision to define McHenry County's economic future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Austin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Austin
McHenry County Administrator



500 Russel Court
Woodstock, IL 60098
Director: (815) 338-2437
General: (815)338-7100
Admin Asst: ext 208
Fax: (815)338-7125
www.mchenrycountywib.org

Barbara Ladner, Chairperson
Jeffery Poynter, Director

June 20, 2013

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: Technical Assistance McHenry County Community Economic Development Strategy

Dear Mr. Blankemhorn;


The McHenry County Workforce Network Board (MCWN) fully supports the development and implementation of a Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for McHenry County, Illinois. MCWN backs the efforts for regional economic development, job growth, and workforce development to promote and expand the economy of McHenry County. We will support McHenry County, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, local municipalities, businesses, and McHenry County College in addressing local economic development needs and initiatives.

A Community Economic Development Strategy brings together community leaders and organizations in assessing our strengths and weaknesses and identifying opportunities to strengthen our community and community. This will help develop and strengthen our labor force, retain and grow businesses, attract new residents, grow our economy, and improve the quality of life in McHenry County. It will also assist in the execution of CMAP's Go To 2040 plan.

The McHenry County Workforce Network has long understood that Workforce Development is Economic Development. CMAP's expertise and assistance will ensure the strong and successful McHenry County CEDS

Sincerely


Jeffery Poynter
WIB Director


Barbara Ladner
WIB Chair


Julie Courtney
MCWN Director

Cc: Peter Austin, McHenry County Administrator



McHenry County Council of Governments

Executive Committee

President Rick Mack
Village of Ringwood
MCCG President

Mayor Sue Low
City of McHenry
MCCG Vice-President

Mayor Charles Sass
Village of Huntley
MCCG Treasurer

Mayor Jay Nolan
City of Harvard
MCCG Secretary

Supervisor Donna Schaefer
McHenry Township
Chairwoman of the Finance
and Management Committee

President Erin Smith
Village of Lakewood
Chairwoman of the
Legislative Committee

President John Schmitt
Village of Algonquin
Chairman of the
Transportation Committee

President Terry Counley
Village of McCullom Lake
Chairman of the Water Policy
Task Force

Mayor Brian Sager
City of Woodstock
Chairman of the
Mayors Caucus

Chairwoman Tina Hill
McHenry County Board

Ex-Officio Member

Anna Bicanic Moeller
Executive Director
44 N. Virginia
Suite 2-A
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-477-2090 (p)
815-459-9057 (f)
amoeller@mchenrycountycog.org
www.mchenrycountycog.org

June 21, 2013

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn,

The McHenry County Council of Governments is pleased to submit this letter in support of the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation's request for Technical Assistance in the development of a countywide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

The MCCG recognizes the importance of developing a comprehensive and proactive plan for attracting and retaining industries in McHenry County in order to increase quality employment opportunities, diversify the tax base and improve the quality of life for County residents. The MCCG looks forward to partnering with the MCEDC and other stakeholder groups in crafting the plan and ensuring that the strategy reflects the goals and objectives of our member municipalities and other local governments.

The MCCG also supports the MCEDC's efforts to secure funding for economic development efforts in the County from the US Economic Development Administration. On the heels of the recent economic downturn, local resources for economic development activities have diminished and delayed efforts to implement strategies to attract and retain business. Federal funding could go a long way in kick-starting business attraction and retention efforts.

As one of the fastest growing counties in the country and sixth largest county in Illinois, McHenry County is an important part of the CMAP planning area. The economic prosperity of the region depends in part on the success of McHenry County. A well-developed comprehensive economic development strategy will assist in continuing the progress of McHenry County, thus benefiting the region. The MCCG therefore believes that Technical Assistance in the development of the MCEDC CEDS will be a good investment of CMAP resources and staff time. We appreciate your consideration of their application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

Best regards,

Anna Bicanic Moeller
Executive Director

Pam Cumpata, President

pcumpata@mcedc.com

Cell 847.682.3555

Shaping the Economy of McHenry County

**McHENRY
COUNTY | EDC**



June 20, 2013

Randy Blankenhorn
CMAP
233 S Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: Support for the Technical Assistance Request from the County of McHenry

Mr. Blankenhorn:

With the convergence of the strategic planning efforts of the partner organizations outlined in the County of McHenry's application for technical assistance, this is the optimal time for McHenry County to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

These partner organizations collaborate regularly on economic development, workforce for today and into the future as well as other foundation building projects. The development of a CEDS will create a formal plan on which to execute on the strategies outlined in CMAP's Go To 2040 plan as well as strategies specific to McHenry County.

CMAP's planning and technical expertise will help ensure the successful completion of McHenry County's CEDS.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pam Cumpata'.



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: County of McHenry

2. Main Contact for Application (please include name, phone number and email): Dennis Sandquist, Director of Planning and Development 815-334-4548

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):
McHenry County Economic Development Corporation
McHenry County College
McHenry County Workforce Network Board

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.

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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.

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.)

REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

McHenry County is requesting CMAP assistance with the development of a countywide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). In order for McHenry County to achieve sustainable prosperity and future growth, we must adapt to the changing economy and plan for the future. A CEDS is critical to providing a vehicle which will align our stakeholders behind a common vision and implementation plan. We will submit the CEDS Plan to the U.S. Economic Development Administration with the intent that adoption of the CEDS may qualify the County for Federal grant funding to assist with facilitating economic development.

As one of the fastest growing areas in Illinois with 18.7% growth between 2000 and 2010, McHenry County is aware of the need to be proactive, instead of reactive, and to plan for the continued strategic growth of the County. Our recent growth trajectory spotlighted the importance of balance between industry sectors, cluster and supply chain development, employment opportunities, workforce housing needs, increased educational opportunities and quality of life issues. By creating a common vision and path embraced by all stakeholders, a CEDS will guide stakeholders within our region to target investments, building on existing regional assets to create a supportive regional economic ecosystem for business investment and innovation, increased international trade and exports, the creation of good jobs, and improved quality of life.

The development of a McHenry County CEDS will help implement the **CMAP Go To 2040 Regional Plan** and align the individual plans of our partners to include: McHenry County Board, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, McHenry County College and McHenry County Workforce Network Board. With the convergence of the strategic planning efforts of these partner organizations, this is the optimal time for McHenry County to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. CMAP's planning and technical expertise will help ensure the successful completion of McHenry County's CEDS.

One of McHenry County's high priority issues is developing a skilled workforce. The CEDS will help us to broaden our industry sector targets, including supply chain development, and improve assessment and skills education opportunities to correspond to our needs of today and in the future.

We agree to the statement in CMAP's Go to 2040 Plan, that "that prosperity is driven largely by a combination of infrastructure, overall business environment, workforce, and amenities." A CEDS would provide us with a roadmap for us to build upon. It would also assist in creating priorities on upon which we could focus such as those outlined in CMAP's Go to 2040 Plan:

"Global connections that link us to international trade and information networks, providing economic opportunities and a broad range of jobs"

"A robust, diverse business community, skilled labor force, and excellent higher education system"

"Modern, well-maintained infrastructure, including transportation, energy, telecommunications, and water"

"A healthy environment with ample open space and parks for recreation"

"Active institutions for arts and culture, along with other amenities for a high overall quality of life"

"Government that is transparent and highly accountable"

We have tentatively identified the following tasks for developing a McHenry County CEDS. We believe that with CMAP's assistance and expertise, our CEDS would be greatly enhanced, more comprehensive, actionable and an overall better document upon which McHenry County can prosper. We thank you for your consideration of our request.

- ☒ **Task 1 – Identify and organize individuals to participate in the planning process**
 - ☒ Assemble a Technical Partners Committee to lead the process
 - McHenry County Government
 - McHenry County Economic Development Corporation
 - McHenry County Workforce Network Board
 - McHenry County College
 - McHenry County Council of Governments
 - ☒ **Identify Community Stakeholders**
 - Elected Officials local, county and state
 - County Departments – P & D, DOT,
 - Municipal Representatives
 - Industry Sectors Leaders
 - Education – Community College, K through 12, Technical Educational institutions
 - McHenry County Conservation District
 - Identify additional entities for inclusion

- **Task 2 – Compile Background Report**
 - Analyze census data
 - Review cluster analysis, industry sector output labor income and employment data
 - Review educational data
 - Develop educational needs profile
 - Review Labor Report on Employer needs
 - Identify skilled workforce weaknesses and strengths
 - Review natural resource availabilities
 - Identify Transportation & Infrastructure realities and impacts
 - Determine current incentives
 - Determine process, time line and structure
 - Determine resource needs
 - Determine responsibilities, allocate personnel
 - Develop cost analysis
 - Create process matrix for progress measurement
- **Task 3 – Stakeholder Meetings**
 - Review Background Report
 - Identify strengths and weaknesses
 - Asset identification and consensus
 - Develop vision statement
 - identify goals
- **Task 4 – Develop Draft Economic Development Strategy**
 - Create process, time line and structure
 - Identify resource needs
 - Assign responsibilities, allocate personnel
 - Prepare cost analysis
 - Monitor matrix for progress measurement
 - Identify and select targeted industries
 - Select planning initiatives
 - Create tier 1 and tier 2 economic priorities
 - Develop marketing plan
 - Prepare draft plan
- **Task 5 – Review the draft plan with the Stakeholders**
 - Schedule of meetings
 - Obtain feedback on draft plan
 - Edit plan
 - Reevaluate Draft
- **Task 6 – Facilitate County Board review and adoption of the CEDS Plan**
 - Present Draft Plan to appropriate County Committee
 - Identify presenters for County Board Presentation
 - Stakeholders available for Q & A
 - Provide public comment opportunity
 - Review draft based on input
 - Execute revisions
 - Obtain approvals necessary

- **Task 7 – Facilitate submission of the CEDS Plan to the U.S. EDA**
 - Determine process for actual submission
- **Task 8 – Implement & Monitor plan process**