



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:

OAI, Inc. (OAI) on behalf of South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) and the partners of the Calumet Green Manufacturing Partnership (CGMP) workforce initiative.

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

A. Mollie Dowling, (708) 589-4522, mdowling@oaiinc.org

B. Reggie Greenwood, (708) 922-4671, reggie.greenwood@gmail.com

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):
OAI, SSMMA, Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation (CSEDC), Prairie State College (PSC), South Suburban College (SSC), Richard J. Daley College (Daley), the Chicago Jobs Council (CJC), Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (CCWP), Chicagoland Workforce Funders Alliance (CWFA), and others.

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.

The CGMP initiative serves the Calumet region of metropolitan Chicago, which encompasses the south side of Chicago and Cook County's southern suburbs. The Calumet Area is a distinct region that has a common economic, social, and ecological history and is where lines of interstate highways, five Class I railroads, two major intermodal terminals (where containers are shifted between truck and rail), and a Great Lakes port intersect with hundreds of manufacturers and logistics companies. Once a vibrant manufacturing community, the Calumet region has experienced severe disinvestment over the last several decades. The contraction of heavy industry has left an extensive supply of vacant properties, high levels of unemployment and depressed household income in its wake. Despite this reality, new and existing manufacturing companies are locating and expanding in the Calumet region. Though committed to locating in this well positioned geographic area, they have unanimously shared with many of the partners in this application that they cannot locate the skilled workforce they need to meet their current or projected business growth.

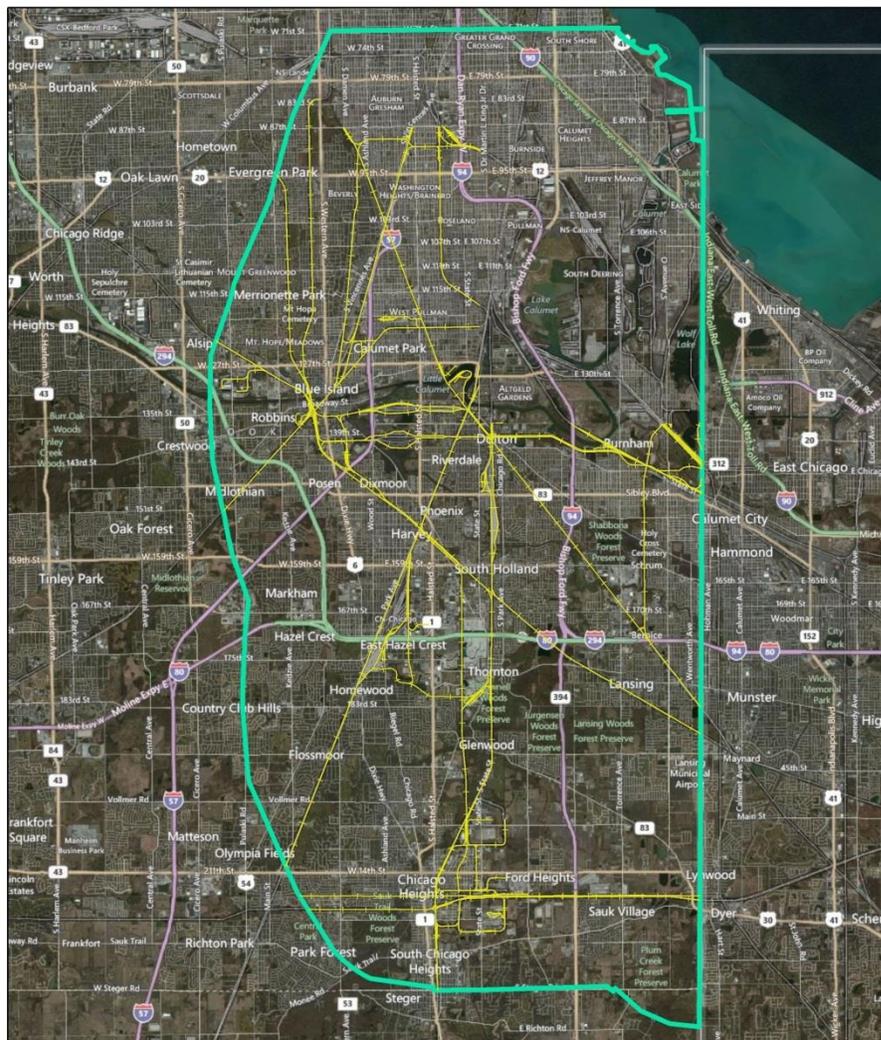
Additionally, through Governor Quinn's announcement in March of 2013 of \$6.8 million in state and local investments to continue developing the Millennium Reserve, a project aimed at protecting natural resources, creating jobs and strengthening communities, the Calumet area is uniquely positioned for additional investments to support and sustain workforce efforts in the manufacturing industry. The Millennium Reserve Steering Committee, comprised of a mix of manufacturers and other businesses, naturalist organizations, philanthropic groups, elected officials and planning agencies, has recently announced that supporting the manufacturing industry is one of their key strategic priority areas. Similarly, the June 2013 South Suburban Brownfield Redevelopment Zone Bill approval to fund \$18 million in incentives to remediate and reuse brownfields to create intermodal, warehousing and light manufacturing jobs on over 1,500 industrial acres will also prompt further Calumet manufacturing growth.

The Calumet region also boasts significant workforce resources to support the manufacturing industry, including five community colleges with manufacturing and/or supply chain management training programs, three of whom are CGMP partners, a strong public workforce system with experience in supporting the manufacturing industry, and multiple federal grants supporting entry-level education and training in manufacturing, including Green Jobs Innovation Funds, TAA-CCT, and Workforce Innovation Funds.

The Calumet region was the subject of the Green TIME Zone, a strategy through which older communities translate the value of their established rail infrastructure and manufacturing capacity into desirable neighborhoods, good jobs, and environmental improvement. The strategy is built on three linked mechanisms for sustainable redevelopment: transit-oriented development (TOD) to establish livable communities, cargo-oriented development (COD) to capture the economic benefits of inter-modal freight movements, and green manufacturing to build a healthy economy with a bright future. These mechanisms lead to the acronym TIME: communities and economies are rebuilt around Transit, Inter-modal facilities, and Manufacturing, all founded on a commitment to preserve and improve the natural Environment. The CGMP workforce initiative is a direct outcome of the 2010 Green TIME Zone strategic plan.

<http://www.cnt.org/repository/GTZ.pdf>

Freight and Manufacturing Assets of the Calumet Region



— Freight Rail
 Millennium Reserve Core

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles



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.)

The CGMP initiative has been delivering vocational workforce training through its College partners for the past two years through Green Jobs Innovation Fund funding from the Department of Labor. <http://greenways.jff.org/green-jobs-innovation-fund> The CGMP uses a Workforce Partnership model to implement its work utilizing a dual customer approach to build career advancement pathways for low-skilled workers and meet employer demands. This Workforce Partnership develops deep, long-lasting relationships among employers; the public workforce system; and education, training, and support service providers, organizing them to provide a continuum of education, training, career coaching, asset development, job placement, job retention and advancement, and support services. The original goals of the CGMP initiative were to:

1. Create inter-college manufacturing and machining training programs for unemployed, dislocated and incumbent workers in the Calumet region.
2. Support career advancement through training curriculums that lead to Manufacturing Skills Standard Council (MSSC) and National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) credentials and college credit for students, and create systems for inter-college recognition of credits earned.
3. Engage local manufacturing companies and trade organizations to ensure that the programs developed meet employers' labor needs.
4. Provide training for 131 participants that leads to 175 credentials earned and 93 participants placed in or advancing in training-related positions with local manufacturing companies.
5. Provide a contextualized bridge program, support services and case management to ensure that lower-skilled and non-traditional manufacturing workers have the necessary resources and supports to access and succeed in these training and employment opportunities.

More information about the CGMP initiative can be found at: www.CGMP4U.org

CGMP Partners have been extremely successful in implementing these initial goals and have already met all but the final placement benchmarks. Training and placement will continue through June 2014 and the partners are confident that they will exceed the original job placement targets in the manufacturing industry as they have with the training, completion and credential goals.

The CGMP partners are currently developing a strategic plan to sustain the partnership and collective effort to serve manufacturers and job seekers in the Calumet region for the long-term. The consortium has developed a new mission statement: *To enhance the manufacturing industry in the Calumet region by bridging the labor/skills mismatch.* It now needs the Technical Assistance of CMAP and its partners to develop a plan, building on the existing Green TIME ZONE local strategic plan and the success of the CGMP training initiative, for comprehensively serving industrial needs and effectively coordinating regional workforce and training assets.

One of the new strategic ideas developed by the CGMP working group has been to establish an executive-level Leadership Council, comprised primarily of participating employer partners but also including executive leadership of all partners and stakeholders, which will have two primary functions:

1. Raise the profile of CGMP. Because the council is comprised of executive leadership from all involved parties, the members will be able to use their positions to raise the overall profile of CGMP and be vocal champions of the partnership.
2. Provide guidance to the working group. The council will not be an oversight body, but it will provide strategic guidance to the working group on critical issues as needed.

The CGMP team requests the assistance of CMAP to help establish this CGMP Leadership Committee and to strategically connect with similar efforts in other parts of the region to share best practices, organize relevant transferrable resources and curricula and to seek out partnership opportunities. In the recent application to the Chicagoland Workforce Funders Alliance, the CGMP group (whose members are listed in question #3 above) aligned with the Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC) as well as Manufacturing Works (MW), the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) and the Chicago Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) and a number of Employer Advisory Councils from many of the aforementioned entities to establish a Calumet Manufacturing Workforce Intermediary (CMWI). The partners involved in this broader coalition are simultaneously addressing CGMP's mission and have identified and coordinated efforts through the lens of the dual-customer approach. This CMWI group represents a complicated matrix of workforce, economic development, training, human service, philanthropic, business and consultative priorities. CJC has already been identified as the entity best suited to convene and coordinate the efforts of this CMWI. The CGMP partners request CMAP's assistance to effectively establish and convene this new evolution of the CGMP initiative building on the existing relationship with CJC and its new project management role in the upcoming workforce intermediary.

In addition to the partners already connected to either CGMP or CMWI, OAI and SSMMA are aware of a number of complimentary efforts in the Calumet region including the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium's aim to map assets in schools that might be of value to local business community and the ongoing regional efforts to develop meaningful relationships with regional high schools and young-adult serving organizations to promote careers in manufacturing through training, internships and hands-on experiences with local companies.

Other potential goals of the broad stakeholder group include:

1. Promote the sub-cluster of rail manufacturing and rail logistics as a targeted industry for innovation, growth and expansion in the Calumet.
2. Respond to employer demands in additional manufacturing and logistics sub-clusters such as chemical, pharmaceutical and food production.
3. Secure and leverage funding for employer-requested training at regional Colleges.
4. Develop and implement a regional marketing campaign for careers in manufacturing.

This list is a beginning of strategic ideas that are poised for further development, enhancement and implementation. The partners in this application believe this request aligns with the GO TO 2040 Human Capital priorities of Education and Workforce Development as well as Economic Innovation. We petition that CMAP will favorably consider this request to develop a comprehensive workforce strategy for manufacturing in the Calumet region.