



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

DEADLINE: Noon on Thursday, June 26, 2014

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:

Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)

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

Harriet Festing, Director of the Water Program, tel: 773 269 4042, email: hfesting@cnt.org

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

Local government

Multijurisdictional group* **—————>** Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):

Nongovernmental organization* **—————>** Name of local government partner(s):
City of Chicago

*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.

Midlothian, IL

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.)

CNT is working with the Village of Midlothian, a group of organized village residents (Floodlothian Midlothian) and the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a Rain Ready plan for the Village. This application is for resources and skills to help develop the Plan, with a focus on opportunities within the community's streets, alleys, parkways, trails, and parking lots.

[Rain Ready](#) is a grassroots initiative developed by CNT, aimed at helping individuals, businesses, and communities find solutions to the problem of too much or too little water. The initiative has been generously funded by the City of Chicago, the Surdna Foundation, Prince Charitable Trusts, Grand Victoria Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and State Farm.

The residents of Midlothian suffer from repetitive and severe flooding (see [link](#) for video). Residents are affected both by overbank flooding from nearby creeks, and from overland flooding as a result of urban runoff from impervious surfaces. The Village plans to host an event in August, chaired by Mayor Rybak and State Representative Will Davis, to convene the key agencies to discuss the problems. CNT is working with the Village to carry out surveys of residents affected, and there is a very active residents' group called Floodlothian Midlothian that is promoting awareness of the issues and helping identify solutions. The Village is interested in exploring all opportunities, including green infrastructure within public rights-of-way.

Rain Ready offers a structured community planning approach to help communities develop a Rain Ready improvement plan. The process for developing a plan is outlined [here](#). It includes conducting a [community needs assessment](#) to help residents understand the nature and scale of the problems, and to identify appropriate solutions. Rain Ready stresses the need for robust analysis of flooding problems by carrying out forensic assessments of the individual properties affected by flooding – for example see this [video](#). This work is then used to help identify the mix of solutions that might be needed within the property and in the wider neighborhood.

The Army Corps of Engineers is very interested in the project and has submitted an internal funding application to work on it. They appear to have been successful in the first phase and we are waiting to hear if the project has been selected. If successful, they will provide expertise on retrofitting properties affected by overbank flooding.

To help develop a robust Rain Ready plan, the neighborhood needs help determining the links and opportunities between rain readiness, land use, transportation, and housing. In particular, the Village would benefit from CMAP LTA expertise in: community engagement, green infrastructure opportunities within public rights-of-way (landscape architecture and engineering), land-use planning and financing.

The work will be filmed and documented on the Rain Ready website to help ensure that lessons learned are replicated elsewhere.



VILLAGE OF
Midlothian

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CMAP Community Planning Program and
Local Technical Assistance Program

June 25th, 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Letter of Support: Helping residents in the Village of Midlothian get Rain Ready

The Village of Midlothian strongly supports this application to CMAP to help the Village review the links and opportunities offered within the transportation system for helping us get Rain Ready.

Residents in the Village are severely affected by flooding. Stormwater runoff from our streets, alleys, parkways, trails, and parking lots can contribute to these problems, and we are keen to explore green infrastructure opportunities for improving management of this runoff within the transportation system.

Feel free to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon L. Rybak".

Mayor Rybak