Project Description:

The Elgin Development Group (EDG), a division of the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce (EAC), would like to write and execute a long-term Economic Development Strategic Plan for the City of Elgin. The EDG has a multi-year contract to do economic development on behalf of the City of Elgin and based its work on the former City of Elgin's Strategic Plan 2013-2017, Road Map for the Future. The City's "2018-2022 Strategic Principals & Priorities Plan" does not incorporate individual priorities like the previous plan. To that end, the EDG has incorporated into its 2020-2023 contract with the City of Elgin the need to complete a detailed Economic Development Strategic Plan for the City of Elgin. We need technical and financial assistance to accomplish this goal.

The over-arching goals of the EAC, in conjunction with its role as a member of the Elgin Development Group (EDG) public-private strategic partnership, are to: Provide a solid tax base to support quality municipal and educational goals; Improve the quality of life and standard of living for Elgin residents; Create a diverse and vibrant local economy; and Generate desirable employment opportunities. To achieve these goals, EAC as a member of the EDG partnership, employs proven economic development initiatives and strategies to meet Elgin’s challenges, current economic realities, and which are consistent with the previous City of Elgin’s Strategic Plan 2013-2017, Road Map for the Future. The EAC’s and EDG’s five, key economic development initiatives include: Business Retention and Expansion; Business Recruitment; Workforce Development; Transportation and Development; and Enhancing Elgin (marketing).

Specific action items relevant to the Strategic Plan are noted under Core Services and Deliverables of the agreement with the City of Elgin. BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION: Retaining existing businesses through proactive outreach, providing assistance and resources and maintaining a business-friendly environment, with a special emphasis on small business; BUSINESS RECRUITMENT: showcasing Elgin as a preferred business location, recognizing the importance that foreign direct investment plays in Elgin’s economy; WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: Engaging with businesses and community partners to help build a diverse and skilled workforce. EAC shall continue promoting initiatives created to produce a “workforce ready” labor supply to new and expanding businesses; TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT: Focusing on critical land use and transportation issues critical to the development of Elgin and the surrounding area; ENHANCING ELGIN: Promoting Elgin’s positive aspects and quality of life.

The EDG would like CMAP to consider support for our effort for organized, sustainable, and planned growth for the City of Elgin through the development and execution of an Economic Development Strategic Plan. Various community stakeholders will be involved during the process of developing a plan that will map out achievable steps that will take Elgin’s economic development effort to the next level. CMAP’s support and involvement of this local effort is critical to our effort to achieve common goals.

Project Location: City of Elgin, Illinois