



**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](http://www.rtachicago.com/applications). You may submit the form by email to [applications@rtachicago.com](mailto: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**

**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](mailto: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.

#### The neighborhoods of Albany Park and Chatham, City of Chicago

#### 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 in two neighborhoods in the City of Chicago - Chatham and Albany Park - to help residents get Rain Ready. This application is for resources and skills to take this work further by developing Rain Ready plans for the neighborhoods, with a focus on streets, alleys, parkways, trails, parking lots and transit.**

**[Rain Ready](#) is a grassroots initiative aimed at helping individuals, businesses, and communities find solutions to the problem of too much or too little water, with a focus on swift, affordable and nature-based solutions. 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.**

**Albany Park has been the site of two devastating floods over the past six years. Residents are affected both by overbank/riverine flooding, and by basement back-up and seepage problems. A lot of the problems occur as a result of overland flooding across the City's streets.**

**The North River Commission recently hosted an event to bring together the key players who might help us tackle the serious problems that residents and businesses are facing. Albany Park is anticipating significant investment in and expansion of its grey infrastructure. This investment is expected to partially alleviate the problems, but further investment in decentralized infrastructure**

solutions is necessary. The North River Commission is particularly interested in swift, nonstructural and green solutions that form part of the Rain Ready initiative.

The Rain Ready plan will be developed with the North River Commission, the aldermen serving the Albany Park area (Deb Mell, 33rd and Marge Laurino, 39th), and with the support of the City of Chicago.

Although there are no floodplains in the community, research by CNT (The Prevalence and Cost of Urban Flooding) found that Chatham zip codes—60619 and 60620—have some of the highest flood damage payouts in Cook County. Between 2007 and 2011, urban flooding has resulted in 16,400 claims and \$44 million in payouts. CNT has already carried out work in the neighborhood: we hosted an event, produced an event report, and are now working with residents in West Chesterfield to help retrofit their properties with plumbing and landscape solutions. This work is being done with the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association, Greater Chatham Alliance, and Gathering Point Community Council. A Rain Ready plan, developed with these same partners, would provide a more strategic set of solutions for the neighborhood.

The process for developing a Rain Ready 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. Much of the focus is on analysis and assessments of individual properties affected by flooding (for example see this [video](#)) to understand the mix of solutions that might be needed within the property and in the public rights-of-way.

To help develop a robust Rain Ready plan, the communities need help determining the links and opportunities between rain readiness, land use, transportation, and housing. In particular, we 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 learnt are replicated elsewhere.



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
CITY OF CHICAGO

June 25, 2014

CMAP Community Planning Program and  
Local Technical Assistance Program

To Whom It May Concern:

**Letter of Support: Helping residents in Albany Park get Rain Ready**

The City of Chicago is supportive of this application to help the residents and community of Albany Park get Rain Ready through a structured community planning process.

Albany Park residents have been affected by property flooding over several years. This initiative will help them carry out a community needs assessment to better understand the problems they are facing. With the needs assessment, we can then work together to develop a plan of action, with a focus on swift, non-structural solutions including green infrastructure.

The project is part of the Rain Ready initiative that is led by the Center for Neighborhood Technology and partially funded by the City of Chicago.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sean S. Wiedel  
Assistant Commissioner



## NORTH RIVER COMMISSION

3403 W. Lawrence Ave., Suite 201, Chicago IL 60625  
phone 773.478.0202 | fax 773.478.0282  
[www.northrivercommission.org](http://www.northrivercommission.org)

CMAP Community Planning Program and  
Local Technical Assistance Program

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Letter of Support: Helping residents in Albany Park get Rain Ready

The North River Commission is a community-based organization founded in 1962 by concerned residents and neighborhood institutions. NRC unites over 10 civic associations, businesses, schools, institutions and places of worship on the northwest side of Chicago to improve the quality of life for all constituents in our community by creating affordable housing, quality education, arts & cultural endeavors, open spaces, and stable neighborhood businesses.

Most recently, we have been working with residents, agencies and nonprofits - including the Center for Neighborhood Technology - to encourage ways to mitigate flooding in Albany Park. As you know, Albany Park has been the site of two devastating floods over the past six years. We recently hosted an event to bring together the key players who might help us tackle the serious problems that residents and businesses are facing.

We are particularly interested in swift, nonstructural and green solutions that are being developed in this proposal and are enthusiastic to support it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Friedmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John R Friedmann  
VP Environment  
North River Commission