Application form:
Community Planning Program and
Local Technical Assistance Program

DEADLINE: Noon on Thursday, June 25, 2015

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: South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association

2. Main Contact for Application:

   Name: Lakeshia Wright
   Title: Deputy Executive Director of Housing and Community Development
   Phone number: 708-922-4675
   Email: Lakeshia.Wright@ssmma.org

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

   ____ Local government
   ___X_ Multijurisdictional group* Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):
      Village of Richton Park, Village of Park Forest, Village of Lynwood, Village of Hazel Crest
   ____ Nongovernmental organization* 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, RTA, or CCDPH 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, RTA, or CCDPH.)

__X__ 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 a bicycle, pedestrian, or active transportation plan in suburban Cook County.
__X__ My project is not directly related to transportation or land use, but implements GO TO 2040 in other ways.

5. Local Match Requirement (please initial to indicate you are aware of the local match requirements):

I am aware that a local match will be required for most projects, and understand that if my project is selected it is up to the project applicant to contribute a local match. (See the program guide for further details on local match requirements.)

__X__ Yes, I understand that applicants will be required to contribute a local match.

6. 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.

We are proposing to work the 4 Municipalities which are members of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) and members of SSMMA’s Chicago Southland Housing and Community Development Collaborative. These municipalities are the Village of Richton Park, the Village of Park Forest, the Village of Lynwood, and the Village of Hazel Crest. (Please See attached Map)

7. 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. Program 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.)
SSMMA proposes to have CMAP guide and assist our use of the new Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit to develop a housing policy plan for 4 south suburban municipalities: The Villages of Hazel Crest, Lynwood, Richton Park, and Park Forest. These municipalities were chosen based on their willingness to participate in this project and their need for a comprehensive Housing Policy Plan.

Many south suburban communities continue to see the effects of the housing crisis that took place in 2008. While many communities in the Chicagoland region are starting to see a significant increase in home value and a decline in foreclosure filings, the south suburbs continues to lag behind. SSMMA recognizes that effective housing policy and in depth analysis will not only help each individual municipality continue to make strides towards a more stable housing market, but can set an example for the entire region.

In 2012, SSMMA was involved in the making of the original Homes for a Changing Region Guide. As mentioned in original guide, the south suburban region is still determined to turn things around and encourage positive developments in the region. SSMMA regularly refers to this guide and currently uses it as an example of effective housing policy recommendations. While SSMMA continues to lead the push for more development in the region, we recognize the need for a housing policy plan that not only reflects the needs of the current residents, but takes into account the policy changes needed to properly support our other efforts for the future.

Two of the 4 proposed communities were analyzed in the previous Homes for a Changing Region guide. The Villages of Park Forest and Hazel Crest have both used this work to gain better understanding of how their housing market has changed and has used the guide to implement recommendations proposed in the initial book.

For example, the Village of Park Forest has implemented:

- The recommendation for regulatory changes to allow small-lot single family homes and cottage-style homes is being incorporated into the new Uniform Development Ordinance (UDO) being drafted by CMAP for the Village of Park Forest.
- Mixed use zoning district, also recommended by the Homes policy plan, will be part of the new UDO to be considered by the Village later this year.
- Continued to seek grant funding to demolish vacant, blighted homes in the Eastgate neighborhood. At this time, 59 homes have been demolished, and the Village owns 23 of these vacant lots. Grant funding has been awarded to the Village that will permit the deconstruction of 10 more vacant, blighted homes in the neighborhood.
- A new Dollar General store has been developed in DownTown Park Forest.
- The Village applied for and received an LTA project from the Regional Transportation Authority to prepare a Pedestrian Access Plan for the 211th Street TOD area. Subsequently, the Village has applied for CMAQ funds to implement this plan.
- The Village Hired a Sustainability Coordinator has initiated a series of programs to promote energy conservation, working with Energy Impact Illinois and the utility providers.

The Village of Hazel Crest has:

- Worked with the South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority (SSLBDA) to examine and acquire properties location in the Hazel Crest Proper area, highlighted in the document
Also worked with the SSLBDA to examine and acquire properties near the Hazel Crest Metra Station.

- Explored expanding housing options for seniors and veterans
- Worked with Advocate South Suburban Hospital and other businesses to create a Chamber of Commerce to strengthen the village’s relationship with local businesses.

Both Villages are looking forward to examining how their housing market has changed since the original guide was adopted. They are also looking forward to gaining new tools and policy recommendations to keep the momentum gained from the original guide moving forward.

SSMMA also proposes that 2 new municipalities, Richton Park and Lynwood, go through the Homes for a Changing Region process. Both communities continue to see higher rates of foreclosure filings and lower number of mortgages compared to Cook County as a whole. As these communities continue to prepare for future development in their respective municipalities and in the south suburban region as a whole, having a understand demand and supply dynamics for housing in their communities and developing a long-term housing policy plan will assist them in effectively serving their current residents and preparing the community for future housing needs. Both communities also look forward to learning from the 2 communities who have already adopted and implemented ideas from the original guide.

SSMMA would like CMAP’s guidance and assistance with the tasks outlined in the Homes for a Changing Region Policy Guide. Through staff time dedicated to planning assistance for our communities, SSMMA will take on the first task, “Data Analysis”, outlined in the guide. SSMMA has already collected zoning ordinances, zoning maps, compressive plans, and subarea plans for each municipality. SSMMA has also collected Environmental features maps, infrastructure maps, and extensive bike lane maps and has been actively creating Sidewalk maps.

SSMMA proposes that CMAP guides both SSMMA and the municipalities through the second task, public outreach. The staff at SSMMA has experience conducting public meetings and will lead this effort for the municipalities. We would like CMAP to assist us and each municipality select the best ways to market public workshops and guide us through the process of getting the highest attendance and gaining the best possible outcome for the public meetings. Also, we would like CMAP to guide through taking full advantage of the strategies and tools outlined in the toolkit.

SSMMA also proposes that CMAP take the lead with the third task, developing policy recommendations. SSMMA and each municipality recognizes CMAP’s expertise and commitment to efficient and effective policy. SSMMA will create and convene all needed/suggested committees and advisory groups needed for this and all other efforts regarding the project.

For the fourth and final task, SSMMA asks for guidance in making sure the report, written by SSMMA, covers all key elements addressed by the process and can be concisely presented to municipal staff and other stakeholders.
June 19, 2015

Joseph C. Szabo  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60606

RE: SOUTH SUBURBAN MAYORS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION 2016 COMMUNITY PLANNING PROGRAM AND LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Szabo:

On behalf of the Village of Hazel Crest, I, President Vernard L. Alsberry, am in full support of SSMMA’s Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program application to explore our changing housing market and assist with developing a long term housing policy plan through use of CMAP’s Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit.

As a South Suburban community that has been previously featured in a Homes For a Changing Region Guide, the Village of Hazel Crest understands how important it is to understand how our housing market has changed over the past few years. The Village of Hazel Crest also understands how the “Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit” can help us update and understand our current and future housing landscape. We look forward to gaining clarity regarding supply and demand dynamics for housing in our community and developing a long-term housing policy plan that accurately addresses the housing needs of our community.

We are excited to work with SSMMA and we look forward to utilizing the Homes For a Changing Region Toolkit with the technical assistance of CMAP.

Sincerely,

Vernard L. Alsberry  
Village President
June 19, 2015

Joseph C. Szabo  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60606  

Re: South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association 2016 Community Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program Application  

Dear Mr. Szabo,  

On behalf of the Village of Lynwood, I would like to express my complete support of SSMMA’s Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program application to explore our changing housing market and assist with developing a long term housing policy plan through use of CMAP’s Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit.  

As a South Suburban community that has seen significant change over the past few years, The Village of Lynwood understands how the “Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit” can help us understand our current and future housing landscape. We also look forward to gaining clarity regarding supply and demand dynamics for housing in our community and developing a long-term housing policy plan that accurately addresses the housing needs of our community.  

We are excited to work with SSMMA and we look forward to utilizing the Homes For a Changing Region Toolkit with the technical assistance of CMAP.  

Sincerely,  

Eugene Williams  
Mayor  
Village of Lynwood  

VILLAGE OF LYNWOOD  
21460 Lincoln Highway  •  Lynwood, IL 60411  
(708) 758-6101  •  Fax (708) 758-7044
June 19, 2015

Joseph C. Szabo  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60606  

Re: South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association 2016 Community Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program Application

Dear Mr. Szabo,

On behalf of the Village of Richton Park, I, Mayor Richard Reinbold, am in full support of SSMMA’s Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program application to explore our changing housing market and assist with developing a long term housing policy plan through use of CMAP’s Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit.

As a South Suburban community that has seen significant change over the past few years, The Village of Richton Park understands how the “Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit” can help us understand our current and future housing landscape. We also look forward to gaining clarity regarding supply and demand dynamics for housing in our community and developing a long-term housing policy plan that accurately addresses the housing needs of our community.

We are excited to work with SSMMA and we look forward to utilizing the Homes For a Changing Region Toolkit with the technical assistance of CMAP.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Richard Reinbold  
Mayor
June 19, 2015

Joseph C. Szabo
Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association 2016 Community Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program Application

Dear Mr. Szabo,

On behalf of the Village of Park Forest, I want to express my full support for the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association's (SSMMA) Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program application to explore the changing housing market in the south suburbs, and to assist with developing a long term housing policy plan through use of CMAP’s Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit.

The Village of Park Forest was featured in the January 2012 Homes For a Changing Region Guide. The Guide has been very important to the Village's understanding of how our housing market has changed, and how we need to plan for future housing needs. CMAP’s launch of the Homes for a Changing Regional Toolkit has prompted the Village to think about how the housing market in our community, and the south suburbs as a whole, might have changed in the past several years. The 2012 Guide used 2010 data, which was likely affected by the housing downturn. Therefore, the Village is interested in partnering with the SSMMA team to use the “Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit” to update the housing data, and incorporate the housing programs and redevelopment efforts the Village has put into place since 2011. We believe that this will give us a more up-to-date and complete understanding of our current and future housing landscape.

We are excited to work with SSMMA and we look forward to utilizing the Homes For a Changing Region Toolkit with the technical assistance of CMAP.

Sincerely,

John A. Ostenburg
Mayor
June 24, 2015

Joseph C. Szabo  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association 2016 Community Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program Application

Dear Mr. Szabo,

On behalf of Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago (NHS), I, Kristin Faust, am in full support of SSMMA’s Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program application to explore the changing housing market in the South Suburbs and assist with developing a long term housing policy plan through use of CMAP’s Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit.

Working to help South Suburban communities address the significant change experienced over the past few years, NHS understands how the “Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit” can help local officials and regional stakeholders understand the current and future housing landscape of each community. NHS opened its South Suburban office in East Hazel Crest in 2013, and have since served hundreds of households each year through homebuyer education and counseling, foreclosure prevention, and community engagement. We look forward to gaining clarity regarding the housing dynamics in these communities and using the findings to guide our work towards addressing the region’s housing needs. The outcome of this process will enrich our efforts in the participating communities, fostering strong collaboration in our joint objective to improve housing quality in the South Suburbs.

We are excited to support SSMMA in this process and we look forward to the insight that the Homes For a Changing Region Toolkit will bring.

Sincerely,

Kristin Faust  
President  
NHS of Chicago
June 22, 2015

Joseph C. Szabo  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association 2016 Community Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program Application

Dear Mr. Szabo,

The South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority (SSLBDA) fully supports the SSMMA’s Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program application to explore the changing housing market in the South Suburbs and assist with developing a long term housing policy plan through use of CMAP’s Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit.

The SSLBDA is an intergovernmental agency with 17 member municipalities that facilitates the redevelopment of acquired properties through strategic partnerships with developers, community organizations, lenders, and local governments to improve quality of life, stabilize the tax base, and enhance economic activities that promote sustainable, healthy, and stable communities in a manner consistent with local government plans and priorities. Working to help South Suburban communities address the significant change experienced over the past few years, the SSLBDA understands how the “Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit” can help local officials and regional stakeholders understand the current and future housing landscape of each community. We look forward to gaining clarity regarding the housing dynamics in these communities and using the findings to guide our work towards addressing the region’s housing needs. The outcome of this process will enrich our efforts in the participating communities, fostering strong collaboration in our joint objective to improve housing quality in the South Suburbs.

We are excited to support SSMMA in this process and we look forward to the insight that the Homes For a Changing Region Toolkit will bring.

Russell Rydin  
Executive Director
June 22, 2015

Joseph C. Szabo
Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association 2016 Community Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program Application

Dear Mr. Szabo,

The Metropolitan Planning Council is in full support of SSMMA’s Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program application to explore the changing housing market in the South Suburbs and assist with developing a long term housing policy plan through use of CMAP’s Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit.

Working to help South Suburban communities address the significant change experienced over the past few years, MPC understands how the “Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit” can help local officials and regional stakeholders understand the current and future housing landscape of each community. We look forward to gaining clarity regarding the housing dynamics in these communities and using the findings to guide our work towards addressing the region’s housing needs. The outcome of this process will enrich our efforts in the participating communities, fostering strong collaboration in our joint objective to improve housing quality in the South Suburbs.

We are excited to support SSMMA in this process and we look forward to the insight that the Homes for a Changing Region Toolkit will bring.

Sincerely,

Nancy Firfer
Senior Advisor

Metropolitan Planning Council