Application form:
RTA Community Planning Program and
CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program

DEADLINE: Noon on Thursday, June 29, 2017

This application form is online at www.rtachicago.org/applications. You may submit the form by email to applications@rtachicago.org. Upon receipt of application, you will receive an e-mail verifying that your application has been received.

1. Name of Applicant

Cook County Bureau of Economic Development

2. Main Contact for Application

Name: James Wilson

Title: Secretary – Zoning Board of Appeals

Phone number: (312)603-0544

Email: james.wilson@cookcountyil.gov

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):

Cook County Bureau of Economic Development

X___ 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 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.

X__ My project involves preparation of a plan.
    ____ My project involves updating an already existing plan.
X__ 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. 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.

_The project is located in southern Cook County. It is roughly bordered by the city of Chicago on the north, Will County on the south, I-57/I-294 on the west, and Northwest Indiana on the east. Its boundaries are arbitrary and consist of 34 south suburban municipalities with a combined population of approximately 450,000 residents. Its population represents over 20% of Suburban Cook County’s population, and nearly 15% of its business and employment. (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. For plan updates please tell us how you will be building upon (or replacing) the previous work. Program staff will follow-up with you if we need any additional information to fully understand your proposed project.

_on behalf of Cook County Bureau of Economic Development (BED), this proposal seeks technical assistance to complete Phase 2 of the South Suburban Economic Growth Initiative (SSEGI). The Bureau of Economic Development received technical assistance in 2015 for Phase 1, and has recently completed that phase of the project._

_phase 1 confirmed many of the findings from previous work, including existing strengths in the region’s transportation, distribution and logistics (TD&L) and metals clusters; the importance of transportation infrastructure and natural environmental resources to the sub-region’s health; and the active network of organizations and individuals working on economic development. It also highlighted the potential for enhancing innovation in priority clusters; strengthening capacity and participation of targeted local businesses in growing regional industries; upgrading residents’ skills to better align with emerging job_
opportunities; and strategically enhancing housing and quality-of-life amenities in the area’s diverse communities.

Phase 1 laid a solid foundation for embarking on comprehensive sub-regional growth planning and implementation for Cook County’s South Suburbs. The next phase of work will go much deeper into the key challenges and opportunities that have surfaced in this scan, designing actionable initiatives and launching a first wave of activities. Phase 2 of SSEGI will revolve around three sets of activities.

**Expansion of Stakeholder Engagement, Organizing, and Civics – Create the infrastructure to carry forward SSEGI’s work in Phase 2 and beyond, including:**
- Cross-sector, cross-geography Steering Committee to provide overall guidance.
- Subject-focused Working Groups to explore opportunities, vet findings and advise on strategic direction in their respective areas of expertise.
- Stakeholder engagement, including community members, businesses, institutions, civic organizations, and others, to further inform the work.
- Development of the organizational infrastructure, governance, and capacities for long-term management and implementation of a South Suburban comprehensive growth plan.

**Strategy Refinement and Initiative Design**
- Further tailor and target the seven preliminary strategies identified Phase 1.
- Explore additional strategy directions as they surface.
- Translate strategies into specific activities – programs, enterprises, etc. – that can be implemented by existing and new organizations and partners.

**Implementation of First-Wave Initiatives**
- Begin implementing programs, enterprises, and investments that qualify as “low-hanging fruit:” quick to launch, high-impact, and relatively low cost.
- Examples include scaling up existing, successful activities.

A detailed copy of the preliminary Phase 2 work plan is attached to this application.

The Bureau of Economic Development and SSEGI team would like to work with CMAP to explore a range of possible roles in Phase 2 of the project. Our initial thoughts are that CMAP’s expertise aligns most closely with – but is not limited to – the following areas: (1) Creation of a “Development Authority,” (2) Transportation and Freight Planning (Smart Logistics Center), (3) Land Use Analysis (e.g., Green Playground) and (4) Stakeholder engagement.

**8. Previous Plan Implementation Efforts**
Please describe actions you have taken to implement previous plans in your community – whether your efforts were successful or not – to achieve infrastructure improvements, development investment, policy changes, advocacy, volunteer involvement, or other actions. If you do not have experience implementing previous planning work, please describe what you will do to make sure that your plan is implemented. Illustrating a commitment to implement plan recommendations is very important to both agencies as we consider new planning projects.

Through the Bureau of Economic Development, the County has used its entitlement grants to promote economic growth as a general strategy. This effort has assisted many underserved communities with support for safety net programs and community development and infrastructure projects.

**9. Additional Strategic Partnerships**
Please list any additional partners you may want to include in this planning project. Please specify if you have made contact with them in advance of submitting this application.
Phase 2 partners include:

- **Members of the core Phase 1 working team (contacted):** RW Ventures, LLC, Civic Consulting Alliance, Mass Economics
- **Local working group and implementation partners (most engaged in Phase 1, details of Phase 2 participation not yet determined), such as:** South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association; Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation; OAI, Inc.; Calumet Collaborative; Calumet Area Industrial Commission; South Suburban community and four-year colleges; Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce; etc.
- **Regional working group and implementation partners (many engaged in Phase 1; details of Phase 2 engagement not yet determined), such as:** Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, Skills for Chicagoland’s Future, Chicago Anchors for a Strong Economy (CASE), Chicago TREND, Chicago Metro Metals Consortium, Chicagoland Food and Beverage Network, Neighborhood Housing Services, UIC Voorhees Center, DePaul Institute for Housing Studies, etc.

In addition, as part of Phase 1, we formed a Sounding Board of stakeholders. We anticipate that group will be reconstituted as a Steering Committee for Phase 2.

(Please include any additional information that is relevant, preferably by providing links to online documents.)

The full report for Phase 1 of SSEGI, as well as an executive summary, are available for download here: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mmqakmeqda0v5px/AAD67BKq8zbn5sGtUjNdy7X4a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mmqakmeqda0v5px/AAD67BKq8zbn5sGtUjNdy7X4a?dl=0).
1. Committee Structure

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<th>Responsible Body*</th>
<th>Steering Committee</th>
<th>-Dev Entity Sub-Committee</th>
<th>Workforce &amp; Labor Market Working Group</th>
<th>Business Development Working Group</th>
<th>Land Use &amp; Infrastructure Working Group</th>
<th>Housing and Community Amenities Working Group</th>
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2. Primary Activity/"Readiness"

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<th>Strategy Refinement</th>
<th>Initiative Development</th>
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3. Work Planning
Phase 2 = 24 months [TENTATIVE]
Administrative Tasks (e.g. scheduling, organizing meetings, lite work planning etc.) managed by Local Organizer, some by RWV intern (?)
Local outreach expert is highly competent, well-connected, and fully engaged in the project; spends about 1/3-1/2 of time on SS Phase 2
Communications expert engages around Working Group meetings, materials prep, document development & ongoing outreach to stakeholders
Subject matter specialists (housing & commercial real estate) share responsibility for community engagement with local outreach expert on relevant tasks
In-kind rates and levels of effort are illustrative estimates

4. Outputs
Dev Entity Business Plan
Multiple biz plans (or detailed concept papers) for 5-7 high-priority, first-wave initiatives - aim for 1+ out of each working group/topic area
Set of concept papers, in various stages of development, for multiple other initiatives
SC meeting quarterly
4 subject area Workign Groups, meeting 3x each
Small advisory group (sub-set of relevant Working Group) for each initiative (Tabs 2-9)