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
   Northwest Side Housing Center (NWSHC)

2. Main Contact for Application
   Name: Julio Rodriguez
   Title: Director, Community Development
   Phone number: 773-719-7018
   Email: jrodriguez@nwshec.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):
      30th Ward Alderman

*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.

☑ My project involves preparation of a plan.
☑ My project involves updating an already existing 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. 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.)

☑ 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 attach 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.

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 separate application for each project. Please be specific, but also brief (attach separate page as needed but 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.

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.

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.
(Please include any additional information that is relevant, preferably by providing links to online documents.)
7. Belmont Cragin, is located on the northwest side of Chicago. The Northwest Side Housing Center (NWSHC) in collaboration with local community based organization (CBOs), community residents, and faith based institutions intend on implementing the Belmont Cragin Quality of Life Plan (QLP) through 2017-2020. http://www.lisc-chicago.org/uploads/lisc-chicago-clone/documents/Belmont_Cragin_Quality_of_Life_Plan_2016.pdf. Belmont Cragin is home to 78,000 and is one of the largest community areas and one of the fastest growing communities. We have the fastest growing rate of Latino’s in the city of Chicago but our economic development has not kept pace with our community growth.

NWSHC would like to implement our businesses and jobs (economic development) plan listed in the QLP but we need data related to this issue area to help drive our efforts. One of the challenges in our existing economic development plan is the lack of data related to the causes of current challenges facing economic development. We would like to explore the relationship between transportation and economic development. Specifically does our proximity to CTA “L” Stations and Metra stations impact on our neighborhood economic development.

In addition we are interested in the additional data related to economic development and transportation:

- Change in Median Area Income-change in and the increase in low income residents and families and how transportation factors into this change
- Language Access barriers and immigration status among community residents and how this impacts economic development
- The cost of vacant store fronts to the community and the inventory of the vacant store fronts in our community, and
- The average cost to maintain a small, medium, and large scale business in Chicago from a business license standpoint.

Our community residents have significant barriers that prevent them from achieving economic opportunities and overall wellbeing. Residents are burdened by housing costs, whereby 51% of residents are paying 35% or more of income in rent in certain census tracts (tract 1902). In addition, community residents lack the educational attainment required to obtain higher paying, high skilled jobs; 30% of residents in census tract 1902 received an education of less than 9th grade.

NWSHC believes in empowering residents and uplifting our business community to not only increase the economic vitality but also to assess the most adequate means of transportation for residents. We plan on using the economic development data to assess the need for increased bus service, access to bike lanes, and/or creating opportunities for residents to walk along street corridor that have high walkability ratings. Within our quality of life plan, the businesses

and jobs (economic development) area has been the most challenging given the lack of engagement from the chamber of commerce and due to organizational capacity. As of August 2017, NWSHC is bringing on a full-time staff to implement our housing and economic development plan and we intend on using the proposed data to connect the data metrics between housing and local economic development.

8. Previous plan implementation

NWSHC, in partnership with Steinmetz High School, our QLP Health/Older Adult committee, the 36th ward Alderman, and with Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) Chicago were able to successfully bring a federally qualified health clinic to Steinmetz high school. This initiative arose from our planning process and we were with our partners to help make this effort a reality over the course of 12 months. As a result, thousands of community residents and students have access to quality, affordable health care. We have also received the commitment for a 4.5 million dollar athletic complex at Steinmetz High School including a new track, football field, soccer field, and baseball fields. We have also brought additional community programming including a local After School Matters site, additional GED and ESL programs, and computer classes for older adults.

9. Partnership

Our partnership with LISC Chicago has played a big impact on NWSHC’s ability to reach beyond its scope of service and we have been able to bridge the gap between enabling partners to connect with local government and other organizations to reach their goals. In addition, NWSHC has strong partnerships at the local level with our Alderman in the 30th, 31st, 36th, and 38th ward, along with our county commissioner and our state representatives. We notified the 30th ward of our plan to apply for the RFP to request a letter of support from Alderman Reboyras.
June 26, 2017

Ms. Penny A. DuBernat
Procurement Officer
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker Drive Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Ms. DuBernat,

This letter is in support of the Northwest Side Housing Center’s (NWSHC) proposal for a CMAP grant to develop a comprehensive business and economic development plan for Belmont Cragin.

As the Lead Agency of Belmont-Cragin’s first Quality of Life Plan (QLP), and a state and nationally recognized leader in both community organizing, housing, and elderly affairs, the NWSHC is the perfect fit to lead this much-needed project.

NWSHC would like to implement the businesses and jobs (economic development) plan listed in the QLP but needs data related to this issue area to help drive those efforts. One of the challenges in the existing economic development plan is the lack of data related to:

- Median Area Income-change in income and increase in low income residents and families
- Language Access barriers and immigration status among community residents.
- Cost of vacant store fronts to a community
- Inventory of the vacant store fronts in our community, and
- The average cost to maintain a small, medium, and large-scale business in Chicago from a business license standpoint.

Our community residents have significant barriers that prevent them from achieving economic opportunities and overall wellbeing. According to U.S. Census figures, residents are burdened by housing costs, whereby 51% of residents are paying 35% or more of income in rent in certain census tracts (tract 1902). In addition, community residents lack the educational attainment required to obtain higher paying, high skilled jobs; 30% of residents in census tract 1902 received an education of less than 9th grade.

“One Ward One Community”
NWSHC believes in empowering residents and uplifting the business community to not only increase the economic vitality but also to assess the most adequate means of transportation for residents. The NWSHC plans on using the economic development data to assess the need for increased bus service, access to bike lanes, and/or creating opportunities for residents to walk along street corridor that have high walkability ratings. Within the Belmont Cragin QLP, the businesses and jobs (economic development) area has been the most challenging given the lack of engagement from the chamber of commerce and due to organizational capacity. As of August 2017, the NWSHC is bringing on a full-time staff to implement the housing and economic development plan and intends on using the proposed data to connect the data metrics between housing and local economic development. Given the NWSHC’s excellent leadership with the QLP and their commitment to the economic development of the community, I wholeheartedly lend my support to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Ariel E. Reboyras
Alderman, 30th Ward