

APPLICATION FORM

RTA Community Planning Program and CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program

Deadline: Noon on Friday, October 26, 2018

This application form is online at www.rtachicago.org/applications. You may submit the form by email to applications@rtachicago.org. Please submit one application per project as a PDF package. Please avoid submitting multiple PDFs for the same application.

Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):

Name:

Applicant

Name:

Main Contact of Application

Title:

Phone:

Email:

TYPE OF APPLICANT

(please check all that apply)

- Local Government**
- Multijurisdictional group***
- Nongovernmental organization***

*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.

1. 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.

2. 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. (Please limit your responses to 6000 characters including spaces).

2. Project Description (continued)

3. Additional Strategic Partnerships. Please list any additional partners you may want to include in this planning project, and specify if you have made contact with them in advance of submitting this application. (Please limit your response to 1400 characters).

PLAN CHARACTERISTICS

My project involves:

- The preparation of a plan.
- Updating an existing plan.
- Implementation of a previous plan.
- 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 addresses ON TO 2050 and/or Invest In Transit in other ways.

ON TO 2050 ALIGNMENT

(Please check all that apply)

- Inclusive Growth
- Prioritized Investment
- Resilience

RTA INVEST IN TRANSIT ALIGNMENT

(please check all that apply)

- Deliver Value on our transit investments
- Build on the strengths of the transit network
- Keep transit competitive



Jack D. Franks, CHAIRMAN
McHENRY COUNTY BOARD

815/334-4224

Fax 815/334-4020

JDFranks@mchenrycountyil.gov

October 24, 2018

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Local Technical Assistance Program
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear CMAP LTA Review Committee Members,

McHenry County has a long history of farming and agriculture. We are proud to have it continue to be a staple of our communities, economy, and culture. By creating an Agricultural Resource Guide for all uses to access information about farming and local food we will be helping our farmers stay viable in an ever-changing market. The technical assistance CMAP can provide for this project will help us assemble various pockets of material into one cohesive resource. We believe this project supports local food initiative started under the CMAP GO TO 2040 Plan as well as the new guiding principles of the ON TO 2050 Plan.

The County looks forward to being able to build on our existing partnerships, with the help of CMAP, to create an Agricultural Resource Guide that will have the most accurate and important information to share with farmers, consumers, and institutions. CMAP will provide expertise that will help ensure the success of this Agricultural Resource Guild as the definitive source of information.

The county is aware that matching funds are a requirement of assistance. At the September 4th meeting of the County Board Planning, Environmental, and Development Committee, members voted unanimously to apply for this grant program with the understanding that the county will likely be required to provide matching funds.

CMAP's participation is required for the success of this project. The planning, data analysis, and graphic design expertise CMAP can provide is needed to complete this project.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Jack D. Franks
Chairman, McHenry County Board



October 12, 2018

Local Technical Assistance Program CMAP (Attn: Tony Manno)

233 S. Wacker Drive

Suite 800 Chicago, IL 60606

RE: GO TO 2040 Local Technical Assistance Program – County of McHenry Application

Dear Grant Review Committee,

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County are happy to support the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development's application for Local Technical Assistance for the development of a Comprehensive On-Line Agricultural Resource Guide. We are proud to be part of this multi-sector approach to establish and strengthen the use of local foods in our county. The Environmental Defenders understand that the health of our communities is best addressed through multiple strategic measures, including collaboration with various community partners. In order to support this countywide initiative, we look forward to working with the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development to the fullest extent possible on this project.

In the past, we have worked together to promote local fresh food and how to make it more accessible to communities in the area. As a member of the taskforce created by the Agriculture Conservation Easement and Farmland Protections (ACE) Commission and led by Openlands, we conducted a local food and farmland assessment of McHenry County. This assessment includes recommendations for policy and environmental changes, as well as encouraging residents to become more active in their food-system. Many of these initiatives will pair well with that of the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 815-338-0393 or at cwkannerenvirodefmc@gmail.com.

Most sincerely,

Cynthia W. Kanner
Executive Director



1102 McConnell Rd.
P.O. Box 1530
Woodstock, IL 60098
Phone: 815-338-1520
Fax: 815-338-1522
Email: mcfb@att.net
Website: mchenrycfb.org

October 25, 2018

CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

RE: Local Technical Assistance Program – McHenry County Application

Dear Grant Review Committee,

McHenry County Farm Bureau is pleased to support McHenry County Department of Planning and Development's application for Local Technical Assistance for the development of a Comprehensive Agricultural Resource Guide. In support of this countywide initiative, we will work with the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development to the fullest extent possible.

McHenry County Farm Bureau is a non-for-profit membership organization that represents over 800 farm families on local, state and national issues. An additional 8,500 associate (non-voting) members support the Farm Bureau with their annual membership dues.

McHenry County Farm Bureau provides members with legislative representation on trade, transportation, education, renewable fuels, land use, taxes and governmental regulation. Farm Bureau also provides members with the opportunity to participate in educational events, conferences, seminars and tours.

We have teamed up with Planning and Development on efforts to promote and build local food opportunities for farmers and consumers. We have also worked with their department to promote the conservation of farmland within our county.

We believe that McHenry County's Department of Planning and Development department is qualified and capable of developing a Comprehensive Agricultural Resource Guide. We support their effort and look forward to our continued partnership with the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dan Volkers,
MCFB Manager



P.O. Box 352, Woodstock, IL 60098 • 815-337-9502

October 18, 2018

CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program
233 S Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

RE: Local Technical Assistance Program – McHenry County Application

Dear Grant Review Committee,

The Land Conservancy of McHenry County is in full and enthusiastic support of McHenry County Department of Planning and Development's application for Local Technical Assistance for the development of a Comprehensive Agricultural Resource Guide. We believe that this guide will serve as an invaluable tool that will benefit our entire community. The Land Conservancy is eager to work with McHenry County Department of Planning and Development to develop this countywide resource and ultimately benefit by using and sharing the resources we know it will provide.

The Land Conservancy is a nonprofit membership organization. Since 1991, TLC has helped protect over 2300 acres of McHenry County's prairies, wetlands, woodlands and farmland by working with private landowners, communities and other partners. We do this by accepting conservation easements and direct acquisition of property (through purchase or donation).

In 2018, TLC became the first land trust in Illinois to purchase an agricultural easement on 150 acres of farmland through the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. TLC is increasing its focus on farmland preservation and farmland access for beginning and diversified food farmers. Our goal is to attract more food farmers to McHenry County, and our partnership with McHenry County Department of Planning and Development in providing resources and assistance toward that goal is key.

The Land Conservancy looks forward to assisting the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development in any way we can to develop a Comprehensive Agricultural Resource Guide. We are confident that this guide will be an invaluable resource; a kind of "one-stop shopping" guide for all things agricultural in McHenry County.

Very truly yours,

Linda Balek
Farm Project Manager



www.ConserveMC.org

Liberty Prairie Foundation

32400 N. Harris Road
Grayslake, Illinois 60030

October 18, 2018

Local Technical Assistance Program CMAP (Attn: Tony Manno)
233 S. Wacker Drive
Suite 800 Chicago, IL 60606
RE: GO TO 2040 Local Technical Assistance – County of McHenry Application

Dear Grant Review Committee,

The Liberty Prairie Foundation enthusiastically supports the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development's (MCDPD) application for Local Technical Assistance for the development of a Comprehensive On-Line Agricultural Resource Guide.

Based in Grayslake, the Liberty Prairie Foundation is a recognized leader in developing enterprises that build and strengthen our local food system while enhancing the natural landscape. Using our 100-acre organic farm, LPF operates a farm business incubator and a youth education program. LPF has also recently created a community food system program that supports access to healthy, local food for communities. Through our community food system program, in fact, we recently launched Grow Lake County (www.growlakecounty.org), a website designed to connect Lake County residents with local food and related resources. We did so because the lack of a central source of information about local food availability was making it difficult for residents to find healthy local food here in Lake County. The MCDPD's on-line agricultural resource guide will fill a similar and extremely valuable role in McHenry County.

We are also convinced that McHenry County has real potential to be a strategically valuable model for other counties. In 2014, with the support of the Food:Land:Opportunity and in partnership with Openlands, we launched the Land Access Project for northeastern Illinois. Our goal is to help grow local sustainable food farming in the region by helping farmers and landowners more easily connect and work out secure land tenure arrangements. We made a decision early on to focus efforts in McHenry because it is on the verge of having all of the pieces in place for a thriving local food economy and culture to gain momentum. This includes grassroots demand, supportive local governments, successful farmers, institutional support, technical expertise, availability of suitable farmland, and many other factors. If this happens, and the MCDPD's on-line guide will contribute to that, other counties and communities will likely be inspired to do what is needed to promote local food economies as well.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions at nathan@libertyprairie.org.

Sincerely,



Nathan Aaberg

Director, Conservation and Working Lands

Tel (847) 548-4062 • Fax (847) 548-4063
Website: www.prairiecrossing.com

October 17, 2018

Local Technical Assistance Program
CMAP (Attn: Tony Manno)
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

RE: ON TO 2050 Local Technical Assistance Program - County of McHenry Application

Dear Grant Review Committee:

McHenry County College is pleased to support the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development's application for Local Technical Assistance for the development of a Comprehensive Agricultural Resource Guide. As a community-focused educational institution, we believe strongly in empowering the residents of McHenry County and our region to make informed decisions in order to create a more robust local food system. We view the proposed Resource Guide as an important step in creating more informed consumers, producers and municipalities around issues of local food and farming.

McHenry County College (MCC) is currently exploring the creation of an Entrepreneurial Agriculture Program, adding to the efforts already underway in our region to train new farmers who can replace our aging farming population and keep our working lands in agriculture and out of development. We envision a program that teaches farmers relevant business, entrepreneurship and innovation skills alongside sustainable production technology, thereby preparing students for a rapidly changing local and regional food industry. As outlined in the Environment Chapter of the ON TO 2050 Plan, natural resource protection is critical for the resilience of our region going forward, and farmers, food producers, local food businesses and their advocates have an important role to play when it comes to protection and use of our region's land base. Our programming will not only prepare students for jobs in the rapidly growing industry of local and sustainable food, but also create a greater awareness in the region about the importance of farmland protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

In the discovery phase of our programming, we heard frequently from small-scale and/or beginning farmers that a web-based resource with information regarding training, sourcing, municipal regulations and other information would be extremely helpful in the success of their businesses. Farmers also felt it would help them connect more readily with consumers who were looking for local food. Consumers were equally excited about a "portal" which would provide them with more information on places to purchase local food and different ways to support their local food system. Because of the clear benefit both to our community and our potential new programming, we at MCC have given our full support to the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development around the creation of the Comprehensive Agricultural Resource Guide.

We look forward to our partnership with the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development. Please feel free to contact Alissa Moore, the Director of Urban Agriculture Project, with any questions.


Dr. Clint Gabbard, President


Ms. Alissa Moore, Director of Urban Agriculture Project; 815-479-7563; amoore189@mchenry.edu