



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Board

**From:** CMAP Staff

**Date:** March 25, 2024

**Subject:** 2024 technical assistance call for projects

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The CMAP Technical Assistance and RTA Community Planning programs support communities by offering planning and implementation assistance, providing interagency expertise, leverage the region's transit network, and building local government capacity. This work aligns with the comprehensive plan for the region, ON TO 2050, and the recently updated regional transit strategic plan, Transit is the Answer.

In conjunction with the RTA's Community Planning program, CMAP held a call for new technical assistance projects in spring 2024. Applications were due on March 22, 2024. CMAP and the RTA received a combined [122 applications](#) from 96 different applicants. This is the most applications received since 2011, the first year of the joint call by CMAP and RTA.

Below is a summary of applications that were received and a breakdown of applications by type of assistance. The type of technical assistance is based on the initial review of the application, but this may change throughout the course of the evaluation process. Please note that each agency evaluates initial applications for projects that they will manage.

| Type of assistance   | Number of applications |
|--|------------------------|
| ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (CMAP)                 | 20                     |
| Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (CMAP)                             | 17                     |
| Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) (CMAP)                          | 7                      |
| Corridor Plan (CMAP/ RTA)                                      | 10                     |
| Curb Management Study (RTA)                                    | 0                      |
| Housing and Jobs Study – AHPAA (CMAP)                          | 2                      |
| Developer Dialogue (RTA)                                       | 2                      |
| Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Plan (RTA)              | 6                      |
| Grant Readiness (CMAP)   | 8                      |
| Neighborhood Mobility Improvement and Mobility Hub Plan (CMAP) | 3                      |
| NEXT (CMAP)  | 8                      |
| Pavement Management Plan (CMAP)                                | 9                      |
| Site Planning (pilot project) (CMAP)                           | 5                      |
| Special Financing District Study (RTA)                         | 2                      |
| Transit Station Activation Project (pilot program) (RTA)       | 17                     |
| Transportation Safety Plan (CMAP)                              | 5                      |
| Zoning Code Update (RTA)                                       | 1                      |

All communities were welcome to apply for the call, but this year, communities in certain [cohorts](#) will receive priority consideration when evaluating applications for certain types of assistance. Below is a breakdown of applications from municipalities or Chicago Community Areas (CCAs) by community cohort. For applications spanning multiple jurisdictions, the cohorts from each jurisdiction were averaged to create a combined cohort for that application.

| Community cohort | Number of applications |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Cohort 1         | 34                     |
| Cohort 2         | 43                     |
| Cohort 3         | 12                     |
| Cohort 4         | 33                     |

CMAP and RTA received applications from local governments in all seven counties of Northeastern Illinois. Below is a breakdown of applications by county. Applications that span multiple counties are counted multiple times, for each county that they're located in.

| County  | Number of applications |
|---------|------------------------|
| Cook    | 67*                    |
| DuPage  | 16                     |
| Kane    | 12                     |
| Kendall | 2                      |
| Lake    | 19                     |
| McHenry | 11                     |
| Will    | 8                      |

\*Twenty-six (26) of the 67 applications were in the City of Chicago.

## **Next steps**

CMAF and the RTA will begin reviewing applications now through May. Staff will evaluate applications against five thematic priorities.

- Achieve the goals associated with the sought-after type of assistance
- Strengthen planning capacity in communities with disadvantaged populations
- Increase community empowerment and equitable engagement
- Implement previously developed local plans
- Facilitate collaboration across jurisdictions

Staff will also solicit input on the applications from many groups, including transit service boards, Chicago Department of Transportation, Chicago Department of Planning and Development, County planning departments, County transportation departments, and partner technical assistance providers. Staff will conduct interviews to further understand the potential scope of work and resource requirements. CMAF awards will be announced in June.