

Corridors of Opportunity  
Local Implementation Capacity (LIC) Grants  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Application Deadline: Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 4:00 PM

**Q. What is the Local Implementation Capacity Grant?**

**A.** It is a project in the Corridors of Opportunity HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program. The Corridors of Opportunity Sustainable Community Grant is a three-year grant program that ends in January 2014. HUD requirements associated with the Sustainable Communities program are required to be met by the grantee.

**Q. What is the funding for?**

**A.** The funding is to provide early support for the development of high-density residential and commercial centers designed to maximize access by transit, walking and biking. Funding is focused on the need for development-related planning activities.

**Q. What are eligible activities under the general and the site specific projects?**

**A.** The funds are for predevelopment planning for either general planning purposes or for site specific projects that promote the principles of transit oriented development. The funding is NOT for construction or construction-related activities, including site cleanup. There are a variety of eligible projects. See the Application Guidelines for details on eligibility. The grants must be tied to predevelopment land use planning. The grants are not available for training.

**Q. What entity is awarding the grants?**

**A.** Grants are being awarded by the Corridors of Opportunity Policy Board, which is a collaboration of 22 public, philanthropic and non-profit entities within the seven county Metropolitan region.

**Q. What is the role of the Metropolitan Council in the grant process?**

**A.** The Metropolitan Council is the fiscal agent for the HUD Sustainable Communities Grant program. The entities awarded the grants will be required to execute a sub-recipient grant agreement with the Metropolitan Council. The sub-recipient grant agreement will cover the HUD requirements of the grantee.

**Q. What is the deadline for the grant application and what are the document submission requirements?**

- A.** To be considered a complete application, the grant application must be submitted:
- in a **pdf electronically by 4 PM on Thursday, March 8, 2012** to [susan.hoyt@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:susan.hoyt@metc.state.mn.us).
  - In **Sixteen (16) hard copies in 16 individual, three ring binders** to the Metropolitan Council, 390 Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101, Attention: Susan Hoyt, **by 4 PM on Monday, March 12, 2012.**

**Q. How much money is available through this grant program?**

- A.** Total: \$953,000
- 75% or \$ 714,750 is available for site specific predevelopment projects along completed or almost completed transitway corridors including Hiawatha, Northstar, Central, Cedar and Southwest.
  - 25% or \$238,250 is available for general predevelopment planning throughout the 7 county region.

**Q. *Is this a one-time fund?***

**A.** Yes.

**Q. *Is there a minimum and a maximum amount of funds to be requested?***

**A.** There is no minimum or maximum grant amount to be applied for or awarded. Grant applications will be evaluated and funds may be awarded for less than the amount requested under certain circumstances.

**Q. *Who can apply for these funds?***

**A.** Cities, counties within the 7 county region, local development authorities, rail authorities, private or nonprofit developers and nonprofit organizations supporting TOD, entrepreneurs and small business development.

**Q. *If awarded, when do grant funds need to be spent? Are extensions available?***

**A.** Grant funds need to be spent and drawn down from Metro Council by January 2014. No extensions will be granted because the grant expires in January 2014.

**Q. *Can grant funds be used to reimburse grant activities for past project activities?***

**A.** No. Reimbursements for prior expenditures are not eligible. Grant funds must be used to pay for costs incurred after the grant is awarded.

**Q. *Can a project that was submitted for the LCA TOD funds from the Metropolitan Council also apply for the LIC grant funds?***

**A.** Yes. Leveraged projects are encouraged.

**Q. *What is meant by a letter of support from a city if the applicant is NOT the city?***

**A.** The city that the project is located within must submit a letter of support. The letter of support can be submitted by the person within the city that the city has designated for this responsibility (e.g. Mayor, City Manager, City Council). A resolution is not required unless the city requires it as its form of support.

**Q. *Can the letter of support be the resolution adopted by the city for the LCA TOD application?***

**A.** Yes.

**Q. *When are letters of support due?***

**A.** Letters of support will be accepted up to **Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 4 PM**. If the letter of support is not submitted by that time, the application will be deemed incomplete and ineligible.

**Q. *How do you want the following requested information on the application form handled?***

**Q-1.** How detailed does the budget need to be?

**A-1.** There are not firm and fast rules here. Provide as much information as possible regarding what funding is needed to move the project forward to support the application would be helpful.

**Q-2.** How will parking minimums be applied under the Threshold Criteria, where it states how does it meet “minimum and maximum parking requirements?”

**A-2.** The intent of the threshold criteria is to provide less parking than is required by local codes. This will be interpreted against local codes in cases where a city has a limit on maximum parking already. Please elaborate in the application in Section II.E., question 7.

**Q-3.** Do housing projects need to create jobs too? How should the jobs question be answered?

**A-3.** No. Affordable housing projects do not need to create permanent jobs. The job question should be answered including estimated construction jobs, permanent jobs and retained jobs as specifically as possible.

**Q-4.** Does the table in Section III, question 1, on existing and planned land uses, refer to the land uses in the specific predevelopment project specifically or the station area as a whole?

**A-4.** It refers to the land uses in the predevelopment project specifically. Additional information on the station area existing and planned land uses may be submitted in addition, but identified separately from the predevelopment project.

**Q-5.** How is the acreage to be handled in Section III, question 1 for a mixed-use development when the acreages allocated to each use are unknown or it has blended/stacked uses?

**A-5.** Do what makes the most sense to you as long as you provide an explanation. The total acreage for the project may be used, but describe in the space provided the nature of your mixed-use project so it is clear that all uses cover the identified acreage.

**Q-6.** What are the expectations for the quality of the maps in the attachments section?

**A-6.** Maps need to be clear and identify the project within a ½ mile radius of a station area and include boundaries of the site. The maps do not have to be professionally produced.

**Q-7.** Can the Sources and Uses table from the LCA TOD application be used for the Sources and Uses Table requested in the Attachments?

**A-7.** Yes.

***Q. Who is reviewing the grant applications and recommending them to the Policy Board?***

**A.** A review team made up of representatives from local government, housing and state agencies are reviewing the grant applications. The list is posted on the web site for the Metropolitan Council - Corridors of Opportunity. The reviewers will abide by a conflict of interest policy during the review process.

***Q. What is the anticipated timeline for the application review and approval process?***

**A.** The Review Team will review applications in March and April. Corridors of Opportunity Policy Board consideration and action on the recommendations are anticipated on May 23, 2012. The Policy Board meeting is held at 12:30 PM at the Metropolitan Council at 390 Robert Street, St. Paul on this date. Materials are posted on the Metropolitan Council Corridors of Opportunity web site at least three days in advance of the Corridors of Opportunity Policy Board meeting.

***Q. Questions?***

**A.** Contact Susan Hoyt, [susan.hoyt@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:susan.hoyt@metc.state.mn.us) or 651.602.1330.