

Critical Corridors Pre-Development Planning

Grant Guidelines

Purpose

The Critical Corridors Pre-Development Planning Grant assists local communities in preparing for public improvements and equitable redevelopment within transit, economic and cultural corridors. Land use development patterns and associated infrastructure have a strong relationship to greenhouse gas emissions, public health indicators, racial disparities and economic resiliency. Transforming critical corridors within Ramsey County from mainly auto-oriented areas to more compact, walkable environments can create greater connectivity between housing, jobs, and destinations, while enhancing pedestrian access and safety.

Eligible Applicants

Cities, housing authorities, economic development authorities, port authorities, watershed districts and community-based nonprofit organizations in Ramsey County.

Eligible Activities

- Small area plans
- Corridor plans
- Station area plans
- Redevelopment feasibility or market analyses (including "Missing Middle" housing analysis).
- Infrastructure planning and conceptual designs including:
 - Pedestrian and bike connections.
 - Public realm improvements.
 - walking-oriented development.
 - 'Safe Routes to Transit' plans to enhance safe pedestrian access to transit.
 - District energy/stormwater system plans.
- Land use and/or zoning studies to reduce minimum parking standards and increase land use intensification within transit corridors.
- Equitable development policy and/or plan development (including inclusive housing policy).



Ineligible Activities

- Capital costs and equipment.
- Road-centric planning, activities related to redesigning County roads.
- General sewer or water infrastructure planning.
- Traffic or parking studies not corresponding to parking reduction goals.
- Site plans.
- Soft costs (architectural, appraisals).

Funding

Maximum anticipated award is \$50,000, per project. Projects must be completed by December 31, 2023. Activities completed prior to grant award are not eligible for reimbursement.

Strategic and Selection Priorities

- Actions leading to intensification of land use emphasizing pedestrian environment and transit service.
- Actions encouraging multi-family zoning/development.
- Actions improving pedestrian and/or bike environments, safety, and access.
- Actions likely to catalyze surrounding development with non-displacement of current residents.
- Parity in funding between projects in Saint Paul and suburbs.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted via ZoomGrants between Monday August 29, 2022 and Wednesday, September 28, 2022. To access the application, visit ramseycounty.us/CriticalCorridors.

Applications should include:

1. Ramsey County Pre-development Planning Grant application.
2. Map of proposed project area.
3. Letters indicating community support.

Funding decisions are anticipated in November 2022. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact Martha Faust at martha.faust@ramseycounty.us or [651-358-4341](tel:651-358-4341) to discuss their project before applying.

Local Government Resolution of Support

A city council resolution must be adopted to receive Ramsey County Pre-Development Planning funding. This resolution must be submitted if funds are awarded (anticipated in November 2022), but if it is not possible to obtain by the application deadline, then a letter of support from city planning/economic development staff may be submitted in its place.

Application Evaluation

Ramsey County seeks to address racial equity and ethnic-based disparities where all residents can experience fair outcomes including the highest level of health, wellbeing, and opportunities for advancement and growth. Please review the Ramsey County [Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Plan](#), [Equitable Development Framework](#), [Strategic Plan](#), [Bike and Pedestrian Plan](#) and [All Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan](#) for the County's goals and priorities.

When determining funding awards, the County will prioritize proposals that best meet the County's planning goals and priorities while aligning with local community priorities. Applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of Ramsey County [Community & Economic Development](#) staff and other reviewers as deemed necessary.

Contracting and Reporting

Ramsey County will contract directly with grantees for the portion of the proposed work covered by the grant award. All grantees are required to submit a final report summarizing the project process, outcomes and impacts of completed work. Receiving funds through this program does not guarantee that future capital funding will be made available.