



Livable Communities Initiative

2025 Technical Assistance Application

Round 2

Region 1 Planning Council (R1) is accepting applications for the **Livable Communities Initiative's (LCI) Technical Assistance Program**. This program provides subarea support for qualifying neighborhoods within the Rockford Region to help advance livability, equity, and long-term sustainability.

Application Deadline:

Completed application packets must be submitted electronically by 5:00 PM on Monday, August 4, 2025 to:

Director of Planning | Tim Verbeke | tverbeke@r1planning.org

Application Submission Requirements:

Please submit the following materials as a complete packet:

1. **Completed LCI Application Form**
2. **Letter of Commitment** from the chief elected official, pledging municipal staff time and logistical support for the planning process
3. **Letters of Support** from relevant stakeholders (e.g., local agencies, elected officials, or community-based organizations)

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include neighborhood associations or community-based groups within a "middle" neighborhood working in collaboration with their local municipality and elected leadership.

Applicant Information

Organization Name: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Neighborhood: _____

Municipal Representative (if applicable):

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Technical Assistance Details

This application is for **technical assistance** through the Livable Communities Initiative (LCI), led by R1. Selected applicants will work closely with R1 to develop a **neighborhood plan** that identifies local needs and recommends strategies and projects to improve livability, equity, and sustainability.

This is *not* an implementation funding award. Instead, the purpose of this process is to provide your neighborhood with professional planning support that results in a clear, actionable plan. If awarded, your organization will receive assistance from R1 in conducting community engagement, analyzing challenges, and identifying opportunities within your study area.

The completed neighborhood plan can serve as a foundation for future implementation. R1 will ensure the plan aligns with municipal priorities, available funding opportunities, and advocate for project support from the city or other partners. This collaboration helps ensure that the neighborhood's needs are understood, documented, and positioned for action.

LCI is guided by six **Livability Framework Principles**, developed through a federal partnership among the U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These principles aim to promote more livable, sustainable, and equitable communities by aligning housing, transportation, and environmental policies.

[HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities – Six Livability Principles:](#)

1. Provide more transportation choices.
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing.
3. Enhance economic competitiveness.
4. Support existing communities.
5. Coordinate and leverage investment.
6. Value communities and neighborhoods.

Technical Assistance Narrative

Using the guiding principles above, please describe what your neighborhood or organization needs assistance with through this technical assistance opportunity. This may include issues such as infrastructure challenges, transportation barriers, etc. Be as specific as possible, and explain how this assistance could strengthen the community and support future implementation efforts in collaboration with the municipality and R1.

Priority Goals

Please indicate up to **four** priority goals you would like this neighborhood plan to address. These selections will help guide the project scope and ensure alignment with community needs.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase access to public transit | <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage transit-oriented development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improve walkability and bikeability | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase resilience to climate impacts and transportation disruptions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attract new investment and development | <input type="checkbox"/> Create a more age-friendly community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expand and diversify housing choices | <input type="checkbox"/> Promote inclusive and equitable growth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve and enhance existing neighborhood character | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce risk and impact of flooding |

Study Area Details

The following is a list of the identified middle neighborhoods, or eligible priority area, in alphabetical order:

- Midtown
- North Towne
- Ridge Avenue
- Rollin Green East
- Signal Hill
- South Gate
- Southeast Belvidere

To view a map of the designated areas, visit: r1planning.org/planning/livable-communities-initiative/

Is the project located in an area designated by R1 as a Livable Communities Initiative priority area?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Study Area Boundaries:

Please describe the geographic boundaries of the proposed study area. Use well-known streets, landmarks, jurisdictions, or other identifiable features.

Example: "Main Street to the north, Wall Street to the south, Broadway Blvd to the east, and 42nd Avenue to the west."

Note: The boundary proposed here is a starting point. It may be adjusted by R1's LCI team in collaboration with the selected applicant as the project is developed.

Neighborhood Planning Priorities

Please **rank the following priorities** for your neighborhood from **1 (highest priority) to 5 (lowest priority)**.

☐ **Complete Streets** (Streets designed for safe use by everyone, including pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and public transport users.)

☐ **Economic Analysis** (Utilizing one of following analysis: economic, equity impact, industry, and forecasting services—across all modes of transportation.)

☐ **Land Use Planning** (the basis for zoning laws that restrict certain developments to protect the environment)

☐ **Redevelopment Planning** (Redevelopment includes all development projects that build new structures and land uses on a previously developed site)

☐ **Road Reconfiguration** (Roadway reconfiguration can improve safety, calm traffic, provide better mobility and access for all road users, and enhance overall quality of life.)

☐ **Other** (please specify):

Community Engagement & Outreach Planning

The success of your project will depend on inclusive, accessible, and well-organized community outreach efforts. R1 strongly encourages neighborhood-led engagement that brings together residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to help shape the future of their communities. Please note that there will most likely be **four community workshops scheduled throughout 2026** as part of the Technical Assistance Program, and it is important to plan outreach strategies that align with this timeline to ensure broad participation.

Please provide responses to the following questions:

Workshop Organization

How would your organization help plan and organize public community workshops? Please describe the approach to organizing these events, including any ideas for formats (e.g., open house, facilitated discussion, listening sessions, mobile, outreach, etc.).

Workshop Locations

Identify potential community-accessible locations that could host these workshops (e.g., schools, libraries, churches, community centers, or other public spaces). Please note any existing venue relationships.

Invited Organizations

List community-based organizations, faith groups, schools, neighborhood groups, advocacy groups, or public agencies that would be included in workshop invitations. Ensure diverse and representative participation is accounted for.

Outreach Support from Local Businesses

Identify local businesses, service providers, or public agencies in the neighborhood that may allow flyers, posters, or other outreach materials to be displayed on their premises. Please include business names and locations if known.

Additional Information

Please use the space below to share any additional or supporting information for the application. Describe how the proposed plan will improve neighborhood conditions, address specific community needs, or support broader municipal goals.

Applicant Agreements

By submitting this application, your organization agrees to the following, if selected:

- Execute a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** with R1
- Provide a **local contribution** (if applicable)
- Assist with **presentations and community engagement**
 - *Neighborhood applicants will be expected to present to the CAF on October 23rd (3:30 PM - 5:00 PM)*
- Participate in **regular check-in meetings** and **public outreach efforts**
- Complete **timely reviews** of project deliverables
- Collaborate with R1 to support a successful and inclusive planning process

☐ I agree to the responsibilities above.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Municipal Representative Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____