



Livable Communities Initiative FAQs

Q: What is the Livable Communities Initiative?

A: The LCI is an ongoing program developed by R1 to enhance the quality of life in neighborhoods. Through detailed subarea studies and technical assistance, it focuses on fostering sustainable development, improving accessibility, and promoting economic growth. The initiative aims to tackle key livability issues in the Rockford region, including affordable housing, transportation, public spaces, and economic development.

Q: Who operates the LCI program?

A: The LCI is solely operated by R1, who manages the day-to-day operations, planning activities, and administration of the program.

Q: Is this an ongoing program?

A: Yes, the LCI is an ongoing program that will be implemented every fiscal year for the foreseeable future, with a continued focus on neighborhood revitalization and sustainable community development.

Q: What is the difference between the Technical Assistance Program and the Implementation Program?

A:

- **Technical Assistance Program:** Provides funding for conducting subarea studies in “middle” neighborhoods to identify key challenges and solutions. This program helps local governments assess neighborhood needs in areas like housing, transportation, and infrastructure.
- **Implementation Program:** Once subarea studies are completed, this program offers regional funding for local governments to implement infrastructure projects identified in the studies. *The Implementation program is available exclusively to communities that have successfully completed a TA subarea study.*

Q: Will R1 staff be involved in community engagement during the initiative?

A: Yes, R1 staff will be directly involved in community engagement efforts, including attending public meetings, hosting workshops, and gathering feedback through surveys and other outreach activities. Additionally, [Engage R1](#) will provide regular updates on the LCI program, with a dedicated page now available that highlights the Round 1 neighborhood study. R1 partners with members of the LCI Stakeholder Group for broad community engagement.

Q: How can I stay updated on the progress of the initiative?

A: R1 provides regular updates through the Engage R1 website, social media platforms, and reports available at the CAF meetings. These updates will include information on the status of projects, funding, and other key developments.



Q: Where does the funding for the LCI program come from?

A: Funding for the LCI program is sourced from a combination of public and private funding, that may include local and state dollars. This diverse funding mix supports a variety of neighborhood revitalization projects across the region, helping to drive sustainable development.

Q: How often can I apply for funding through the LCI program?

A: The LCI program has an annual application process, with one round of applications each year. The process typically runs for seven months, starting with informational meetings and ending with the selection of funded projects. The same neighborhood can apply to the LCI program more than once, but a neighborhood can only be awarded once.