

PLANNING GRANT GUIDELINES

Objective:

- Assist counties in developing a Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan and a prioritization at the county level for action, implementation, and investment.
- Support counties in engaging broad stakeholder engagement in identifying quality of place and workforce attraction strategies that will advance their communities and the region.
- Prepare local and regional stakeholders to pursue funding for implementation of strategies through ROI and/or other funding opportunities.
- Prepare the region to pursue funding for projects or programs of regional significance.

Scope:

Countywide planning with broad stakeholder convening and participation. Collaboration is expected and encouraged between various organizations and stakeholders. The final plan should reflect consensus on quality of place and workforce attraction strategies across the county.

Funding Available (One Round):

One \$50,000 Planning Grant will be available to each county.

Deliverables:

A Quality of Place and Community Workforce Attraction Plan that identifies and prepares the county and various stakeholders to pursue locally and regionally relevant quality of place and workforce attraction strategies. Plan development may include updates to existing or outdated plans that may include comprehensive plans, strategic plans, infrastructure plans, interchange plans, or other relevant county planning needs that contribute to the ability to develop a countywide strategy for quality of place and workforce attraction.

Eligible Applicants:

Planning grants will be available to public entities with a county-wide focus. One grant application will be accepted per county.

Examples of eligible applicants include nonprofits, county elected bodies, and local economic development organizations. If more than one application is received from a county, all will be returned.

Eligible applicants include organizations that meet the definition of exempt entities as defined by Internal Revenue Code (“Code”) section 501(c)(3), and treated as a public charity described in Code section 170(b)(1)(A). Other exempt organizations that do not possess 501(c)(3) status (such as organizations described in Code sections 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(6)), may be eligible for funding but will be subject to an enhanced level of due diligence and expenditure responsibility to ensure such grants are used exclusively for charitable purposes.

Eligible Expenses:

County-level entities that receive planning grants will use funds for the preparation of a Quality of Place and Community Workforce Attraction Plan. **Expenditures are eligible if the expense directly contributes towards the planning process.** Indirect costs are not eligible expenses. Project funding may be used for costs associated with work completed by consultants or subject matter experts. Technical assistance, environmental studies, engineering design, stakeholder engagement activities or similar types of planning may also qualify as eligible expenditures. Planning grant funds cannot be used for project implementation.

Timeframe:

Planning Grant proposals will be accepted through December 31st, 2018. Applications will be evaluated and awarded as received, with final decisions on planning grants made no later than January 31st, 2019.

Applicants will have up to one year to develop a Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan. All planning and planning grant deliverables must be received by ROI no later than December 31st, 2019.

