

HENNEPIN COUNTY  
MINNESOTA

Solicitation for Grant Applications

## 2022 Hennepin Planning Grants

**Applications due 3:00p.m., March 22, 2022**



## 2022 Hennepin Planning Grants Guidelines

The Hennepin Planning Grants program supports cities' planning efforts to create a more sustainable built environment. Land use development patterns and associated infrastructure and behavior have a significant relationship to greenhouse gas emissions, public health indicators, racial disparities, and economic resiliency. Transforming existing corridors and small areas from segregated-use, auto-oriented areas to more compact, walkable environments requires intentional visioning and clear planning direction.

The Hennepin Planning Grants Program goals are to:

- Improve community resilience to climate change by adopting mitigation and/or adaptation strategies
- Transition single-use, auto-oriented areas to compact redevelopment patterns, integrating a mix of uses in a walkable environment
- Expand economic opportunities
- Expand housing choices
- Improve connectivity among jobs, housing, and services via transit, walking, rolling, biking
- Promote equitable development, community wealth building and economic inclusion

### Eligible Activities

The Hennepin Planning Grants program supports projects that are at a small geographic scale, rather than city-wide plans, including:

- Small area plans
- Station area plans
- Master plans
- Sidewalk and trail plans
- Park and public space plans
- District systems, such as energy and stormwater
- Public realm improvement and streetscape plans
- Redevelopment feasibility / market analyses
- Other types of plans and studies advancing program goals may be considered.

**Ineligible** activities include:

- Local government staff time
- Reimbursements to consultants who function as a planner for a local government
- Capital costs and equipment
- Road-centric planning, activities related to redesigning County roads
- General sewer or water infrastructure planning
- Traffic or parking studies
- General market studies

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Municipal governments, park districts, watershed districts, and other public agencies within Hennepin County

### **Funding**

Total available is approximately \$100,000.

- Maximum award per project is \$50,000
- A monetary (not in-kind) match is expected, based on population under the local authority's jurisdiction:
  - 50% match if population more than 40,000
  - 25% match if population more than 15,000
  - 10% match if population more than 5,000
  - 0% match if population less than 5,000
- Consideration will be given if financial constraints affect ability to meet this match. Please note in application.
- Funds are awarded on a cost-incurred basis, and only eligible activities occurring after the date of award are eligible for reimbursement.
- Projects must be completed by December 31, 2023.

### **Application Process**

Applications are due **3:00 p.m. March 22, 2022**, via the Hennepin County Supplier Portal.

Application packet should include the following items:

- Hennepin Planning Grants application
- Map(s) of project area
- Letters or resolutions of support (recommended)

Funding recommendations are anticipated by mid-July. Awards are not final until approved by the County Board.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to review projects with Ryan Kelley prior to application submittal. County staff will be available to provide technical assistance to applicants prior to submitting their applications, but not later than March 11. Email: Ryan Kelley, [ryan.kelley@hennepin.us](mailto:ryan.kelley@hennepin.us)

## Application Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated, in weighted order, on the extent to which the proposed activities:

- Expand economic opportunity, housing choices, and improved connectivity among jobs, housing and services via transit, walking, rolling, biking (30%)
- The degree to which sustainability and climate resilience is addressed in the planning deliverables and implementation (20%)
- Demonstrate how a disparities reduction and racial equity-lens will be used in the project design and implementation (20%)
- Demonstrate local commitment to implementation (10%)
- Generate measurable, positive impacts commensurate with the public investment (10%)
- Extent to which this project is comprehensive in addressing multiple program goals (i.e. land use, sustainability, multimodal connections, etc.) (10%)

Applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of Hennepin County Housing and Economic Development staff and additional reviewers as deemed necessary to thoroughly evaluate applications.

## Contracting and Reporting

**Hennepin County will contract directly with cities** for the portion of the proposed work covered under the award. The selection of any consultant(s) must be jointly agreed upon by Hennepin County and partnering cities or agencies.

Hennepin County requires all awarded projects to include a final report summarizing the process, outcomes, and impacts of the completed work and a memorandum, upon request, detailing feedback on how to improve the Hennepin Planning Grants program and application process.

Hennepin County is obligated to follow the Minnesota Data Practices Act, which means that applications will likely be public data after the evaluation and selection process. A statement identifying data as copyrighted or otherwise protected does not prevent public access to the data contained in the response if such data does not qualify as trade secret data.

Hennepin County is not obligated to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of an application. Hennepin County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received, to accept or reject any late applications, to request additional information as deemed necessary to review any application, to negotiate with all qualified proposers, to use any or all proposer ideas and/or approaches presented, or to cancel this application process, if it is in the best interest of Hennepin County to do so.

Receiving funds through this program does not guarantee that future capital funding will be made available.