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For which project type are you applying? (Choose one – You may apply for more than one type of assistance by completing a separate application form.) Corridor Plan

Corridor Plan

Please upload a map of the proposed study area: <https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/16098975702>

Describe the proposed study area boundaries for your project using streets, geographic features, jurisdictional boundaries, etc. Please specify who has roadway jurisdiction and if the study area spans multiple jurisdictions and include existing public transit services, greenways, or trails.

Our study area is the Madison Street Corridor in the greater Garfield Park area. The Corridor runs from Madison and Rockwell on the east to Madison and Kenton on the west. This corridor cuts across East Garfield Park and West Garfield Park. These are all city streets. There are numerous public transit services within the area, with buses that run east-west along Madison, buses on north-south crossing streets (Pulaski, Cicero, California, Homan, and Kedzie) and the CTA Green Line and Blue Line just blocks away and serving both East Garfield Park and West Garfield Park.

The attached map shows the relevant Madison Street corridor in bright blue.

Note that we believe work on the Madison Street corridor will impact the whole neighborhood, including for example, the Pulaski and Jackson Street Corridors as well as side neighborhood streets.

Have there been any long-range plans (i.e., comprehensive plan, bicycle pedestrian plan, land use plan, transportation plan, etc.) created within the last five years that include the proposed study area?

Yes

If yes, will the proposed project:

Build off an existing plan

If yes, please list the name of the plan(s) here and provide a link:

In 2022, we completed the West Garfield Park Corridors Plan. <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:d09c6d0f-0eed-4fe0-b516-3b5c40131bd8>. We note that this plan focused only on the West Garfield Park area of Madison and Pulaski Streets. We would like to build off of this plan and incorporate it in a larger quality of life plan that will cover the full corridor and fully reflect the priorities of the community.

What is the goal of this plan? What are you looking to accomplish?

There has been a great deal of planning and discussion in the Garfield Park community over the last several years. We have done a corridor plan specifically for West Garfield Park, focusing largely (though not exclusively) on commercial elements. We are in the planning and early execution stage of the exciting Sankofa Wellness Village, which will bring a community health center, arts and advocacy center, and entrepreneurship hub to West Garfield Park. We are in the process of engaging community in asset-mapping and issue identification to create a full Quality of Life Plan (QLP) that encompasses all of East and West Garfield Park and all of the issues that concern our community. LISC is working with in partnership on the community engagement process.

We need technical assistance to take us from community engagement to creation of our QLP, specifically making sure that the existing Corridor Plan, Sankofa Wellness Village plans and the views of the community from our community engagement work are fully integrated into a final comprehensive QLP. Our goal is to complete the QLP by the end of 2024 so we can start raising funds and executing on the plan in 2025.

We are working collaboratively with many entities, are engaged in numerous initiatives, and have increasing interest from the City and private philanthropies. But we would benefit from your technical assistance to get a holistic and integrated QLP to the finish line so we can use it to make positive impact throughout our community in the years to come.

In addition to those outcomes, what are the priority goals you would like the plan to address? (Choose up to three)

Broaden diversity in housing choices
Attract investment and development
Encourage transit-oriented development

What are the priority traffic safety challenges that need to be addressed in the area? (Select all that apply)

ADA accessibility
Bicycle and pedestrian facilities
Sidewalk gaps

Describe your coordination when developing this application with the roadway agency and other municipalities located along the corridor:

Since inception, the Collaborative has worked closely with the City of Chicago as well as Alderman Ervin and Alderman Burnett to start addressing the decades of disinvestment and challenges of Garfield Park. Indeed, our first major initiative, turning an open-air drug market at Madison and Hamlin into a Community Plaza and Skate Park, was done in partnership with the City of Chicago. For the last two years, we have had an embedded staff person from the City's Community Safety Coordinating Center (CSCC), one of only a few communities to be part of this pilot program to address violence prevention at the block-by-block level. Recently, the Mayor chose our community as one of four to focus on for investment of resources to address violence and improve community safety. The City and Aldermen have supported our work with Sankofa Wellness Village as well. Our strong relationship with the City of Chicago will make our Quality of Life Planning project all the more impactful.

What are your priority economic development outcomes in creating the proposed corridor plan? (Select all that apply)

Attract new retail development
Attract new jobs
Retain businesses
Retain existing uses

Are there flooding challenges in the proposed study area?

Yes

Does the proposed project benefit groups who have been historically disadvantaged, or residents with limited proficiency in English?

Yes

If yes, please describe:

Both East and West Garfield Park have been victim of decades of disinvestment and their populations are historically disadvantaged. Both community areas are majority Black -- 85% for East Garfield Park (EGP) and 92% for West Garfield Park (WGP). Education levels are low. 21% of EGP adults and 25% of WGP adults have no high school diploma, compared to 14% for the City overall. Only 18% of EGP adults and 10% of WGP adults have any kind of college degree (compared with 30% for the City). Income levels are low -- in EGP 52% of households have income under \$25,000 and 74% have income under \$50,000. In WGP, those figures are 46% and 70% respectively. This is compared to city wide figures of 23% under \$25,000 and 42% under \$50,000. Unemployment is high compared to the city overall. In EGP, 19% of labor force participants are unemployed and in WGP, 24% are unemployed, compared to a city wide figure of 8%. West Garfield Park is widely recognized as one of the communities suffering significant gun violence; substance abuse is rampant.

We are excited about the progress we've made but will need so much more help -- and many years -- to overcome the historic and systemic problems that plague East and West Garfield Park. Technical assistance to complete out Quality of Life Planning process is an important step toward what we anticipate will be many years of activism and action to achieve our vision of a safe and healthy community.

Please identify any community organizations or other key partners who will be involved in the planning process:

GPRWC has many community organizations and key partners involved in its work, including the Quality of Life Planning process. Our key partners are the following. Formal members of the Collaborative are indicated with asterisks:

Alderman Jason Ervin
Alderman Walter Burnett
Bethel New Life*
Bobby E. Wright CBHC*
City of Chicago Community Safety Coordination Center and other city of Chicago agencies
The Community Builders*
Erie Family Health Centers
Fresh Supply
Garfield Park Community Council*
Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance
Habilitative Systems, Inc.*
The Hatchery
Institute for Nonviolence Chicago*
LISC
MAAFA Redemption Project*
Nation Builders Construction Group*
New Mount Pilgrim MBC*
Project Forward*
Rush University Medical Center*
United For Better Living*
West Side United*
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago*

*Formal members of the Collaborative

The RTA and CMAP strive to advance community empowerment and equitable opportunities for all residents through our program. If selected, do you commit to working with the RTA or CMAP to ensure all residents have an opportunity to participate during the planning process and that plan recommendations will include equitable solutions to transportation and policy?

Yes

Is there any additional information you want us to know?

LISC is taking an important role in our Quality of Life Planning process, with a special focus around the community engagement portion of the work. If we are granted technical assistance through this program, your staff will work closely with LISC as well as GPRWC staff, to help us create a comprehensive, community-centered and actionable Quality of Life Plan.

Please indicate your agreement to these requirements: Yes

Please tell us if you have reviewed the contribution schedule above and understand that if selected, your community will be required to pay the contribution amount indicated: Yes

Closing Questions

How did you find out about the call for projects? (Select all that apply) Other: Sent to us by our partners at LISC.

What resources did you find helpful as you apply for the call? (Select all that apply) Web page FAQ

How difficult was it to fill out this application? Somewhat easy
