

Summary of applications for the 2026 Call for Projects

The annual call for technical assistance — a resource tailored to help communities throughout northeastern Illinois prosper — ran from Monday, March 30 through Friday, April 17. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the regional metropolitan planning organization, and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), the transit service agency with oversight, funding, and regional planning agency for the transit service boards (Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, and Pace), have partnered every year for over the past decade to help local governments build capacity and plan for their communities.

While the CMAP and the RTA have separate technical assistance programs, both agencies offer the same online application during the joint call for projects. This coordinated approach allows CMAP and the RTA to offer planning and implementation assistance to a larger base of eligible applicants. We're also able to align these efforts with [ON TO 2050](#), the comprehensive plan for northeastern Illinois, as well as [Transit is the Answer](#), the regional transit strategic plan.

Application breakdown by type of assistance and county

54 applications were received from 46 different applicants. Below is a breakdown of applications by type of assistance. The type of technical assistance is based on the initial review of the application, but this may change throughout the course of the evaluation process. Please note that each agency evaluates initial applications for projects that they will manage.

Type of assistance	Number of applications
ADA public right-of-way self-evaluation and transition plan	9
Bicycle and pedestrian plan	8
Capital improvement plan (CIP)	14
Corridor plan	7
Developer dialogue	3
Equitable transit-oriented development plan	2
Local housing readiness	1
Local road safety plans	3
NEXT program (plan implementation assistance)	3
Node-oriented development	1
Transit area parking and zoning regulation updates	3

All communities were welcome to apply for the call, but this year, CMAP and the RTA will consider the following priorities:

- Achieve the goals associated with the sought-after type of assistance
- Strengthen planning capacity
- Increase community engagement and empowerment

- Implement previously developed local plans
- Facilitate collaboration across jurisdictions

CMAP and RTA received applications from local governments in all seven counties of northeastern Illinois. Below is a breakdown of applications by county. Applications that span multiple counties are counted multiple times, for each county that they're located in.

County	Number of applications
Cook	32
DuPage	10
Kane	4
Kendall	1
Lake	7
McHenry	2
Will	8

Timeline

Date	Action
March 30	Application period opened
April 17	Application period closed at noon
April and May	CMAP and RTA review applications and contact applicants with additional questions
June and July	Awardees announced

Applications received

All applications received are attached below.