


Grants Services Update

February 2024

METRO STRATEGIES
group


Overview



1. Summary of Services To Date
 2. Grant Tracking Log
 3. Review Go/No-Go Decision-Making Process
 4. Current Projects/Grants
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Summary of Services To Date



1. Department Meetings (Finance, Sustainability, Neighborhood Services, Development Services, Public Works, Police, Fire, Health, IT, DEI Office, Clerks Office)
 2. Department Priorities List & Grant Research and Identification
 3. Development of Go/No-Go Decision-Making Process
 4. Grant Program Alerts/Notifications
 5. Project Eligibility/Assessment; Partner Coordination; Funding Agency Coordination
 6. Grant Application Go/No-Go Guidance
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Key Areas of Support

- Grant identification for Department and Board Priorities:
 1. Community & infrastructure improvements (transportation, stormwater management, housing)
 - Goal 4: Vibrant, Diverse, Connected Neighborhoods
 2. Sustainability projects (decarbonization, resilience, biodiversity, EVs)
 - Goal 5: Sustainability & Resiliency
- Project readiness vs grant program requirements
 - Assist staff with understanding requirements and what might be needed, especially for federal grant programs
 - Next steps

Key Areas of Support

- State and regional agency coordination (potential partners & funders)
 - Knowing who to call
 - Knowing what to ask
 - Quickly gain better information to proceed with next steps
 - Funding opportunity reviews
 - Knowing what to look for
 - Quickly identifying red flags
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Grant Tracking Log Example

Month Reviewed	Grant Name	Deadline	Project Eligibility	Applicant Eligibility	Notes/Next Steps
September 2023	HUD Pro Housing	11/6/2023	No	Yes	Not recommended – focus is larger impact collaborative efforts
September 2023	RTA Access to Transit Program	12/15/2023	No	Yes	No current/planned eligible projects
September 2023	MWRD Stormwater Partnership Program	12/8/2023	Yes	Yes	Village received funding last cycle. Recommended to apply in a future cycle.
October 2023	FEMA Fiscal Year 2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	2/29/2024	Yes	Yes	Recommended to review for future cycle; extensive pre-application technical work required
October 2023	USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants	4/1/2024	Yes	Yes	Collaborative meetings ongoing – coordinate as part of regional or C4 submission
November 2023	BJA Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program	5/1/2023	Yes	Yes	Monitor for 2024 NOFO (just released)
January 2024	USDOE Assistance for the Adoption of the Latest and Zero Building Energy Codes	2/9/2024 4/30/2024	Yes	Yes	Concept submitted 2/9
January 2024	FEMA Direct Technical Assistance	2/29/2024	Yes	Yes	Go/No-Go; will request Board approval to submit application for Relief Sewer Project
January 2024	Cook County Invest in Cook	3/22/2024	Yes	Yes	Go/No-Go; will request Board approval to submit application for Bike Boulevards Project

Go/No-Go Process



Why have a Go/No-Go Process

1. A more standardized and objective approach for decision-making
 - Is this going to be competitive?
 - Should this be a priority right now?
 - Do we have the capacity to apply or implement this project?
 2. Time savings for staff/departments overall
 3. Forces an early assessment of capacity to apply; capacity to implement
 4. **Helps identify the most competitive projects and applications**
 5. **Streamlines approvals (VMO and Board)**
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Go/No-Go Checklist & Scoring

Threshold Criteria:

- Project is eligible; Village is eligible; Minimum of 2 **Strategic Fit** criteria met

Go/No-Go Decision-Making – looks at 4 key areas

1. Strategic Fit
2. Financial & Grant Management Considerations
3. Capacity & Readiness
4. Collaboration & Support

Simplified Scoring: Yes=should apply; No=caution

Go/N-Go Review Process

1. Complete the Go/No-Go decision-making checklist
 2. Complete a new project or recurring project form
 3. Receive department approval/consensus
 4. Submit documentation to Village Manager's Office (VMO) for review
 5. Submit documentation for Board review/approval for all requests greater than the Village Manager's spending authority
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Current Projects/Grants

1. USEPA – Climate Pollution Reduction Grants - implementation grants
2. USDOE – Building Energy Code Adoption & Implementation Assistance (\$1M)
3. USDOE – Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Voucher Grants
4. Recently Announced Grant Programs
 - Federal:
 - Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
 - Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program
 - State & Local:
 - Invest in Cook (Public Works)
 - Illinois Historical Records Grant (Clerk's Office)

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Metro Strategies Group works with government agencies as well as private and non-profit organizations to implement creative strategies for the issues that matter to them.

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