

Allegheny Places - 2013 Municipal Planning Grant Program
PROGRAM GUIDELINES



A. Grant Program Purpose

The purpose of the *AlleghenyPlaces* 2013 Municipal Planning Grant Program is to enable municipalities to become generally consistent with *Allegheny Places*, the Allegheny County comprehensive plan, by adopting new or updating existing comprehensive plans and land use ordinances.

B. Grant Program Objectives

1. To promote consistency with *Allegheny Places*, the Allegheny County comprehensive plan.
2. To encourage intergovernmental cooperation and planning.
3. To provide municipalities with a cost-effective option for comprehensive planning and ordinance development.
4. To ensure that municipal zoning ordinances and subdivision and land development ordinances are up-to-date and in compliance with the PA Municipalities Planning Code and other applicable laws.
5. To reduce sprawl and conserve fiscal resources.
6. To encourage the use of advanced planning tools including but not limited to multi-municipal planning, tax revenue sharing, transfer of development rights, and official maps.
7. To provide for more options in land development including but not limited to traditional neighborhood development (TND), transit-oriented development (TOD), cluster development, conservation subdivisions, and form-based zoning.
8. To insure maximum community participation in the planning process.

C. Eligible Applicants

1. Municipalities located in Allegheny County.
2. Councils of Government (COG).
3. Non-profits working on behalf of municipalities with municipal representation on their boards.

D. Eligible Projects

1. Multi-municipal comprehensive plans.
2. Updates to the zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances of municipalities who have adopted a comprehensive plan that is generally consistent with *AlleghenyPlaces*.
3. Updates to zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances **adopted prior to 1989**.
4. Other Projects. Depending on the number of applications received for eligible projects described in D.1 and 3 above, the County may consider applications for other projects that clearly meet the grant program purposes and objectives.
 - a. Official maps and specific plans, as provided for in the PA Municipalities Planning Code¹, are examples of other projects that could potentially be funded through this program.

E. Selection Criteria

The following criteria illustrate how applications will be evaluated for funding:

1. Is the proposed project consistent with *Allegheny Places*? Does the application clearly explain how the proposed project is consistent?
2. Is the proposed project a multi-municipal project?
3. Does the proposed project address one or more of the Program Objectives listed in Item B above?

¹ <http://www.newpa.com/local-government/local-government-law-library>

AlleghenyPlaces - 2013 Municipal Planning Grant Program

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

4. Do the applicants have a comprehensive plan? If so, has it been reviewed for consistency with *Allegheny Places* using the “Municipal Comprehensive Plan Checklist”²?
5. Is the estimated cost of the proposed project reasonable and in line with costs for other, similar projects?
6. Is the application complete at the time of submittal to the County?

F. Funding

The 2013 Planning Grant to Municipalities Program is funded through the Allegheny County Capital Budget in the amount of \$250,000. Funds have been allocated to the Department of Economic Development’s Planning Division, which is the grant program administrator. The maximum allowable grant request per applicant, project, or application is \$65,000.

G. Grant Requirements

1. Municipalities are strongly encouraged to meet with Planning Division staff prior to submitting an application.
2. Preparation of new or updated comprehensive plans and land use ordinances (or similar work) must be undertaken by a professional planning consultant with the requisite experience.
3. The minimum required local match ranges from 0% to 50%, as specified in the “Local Match” handout. The local match must be in cash and cannot be provided from other county funds.
4. A breakdown of the proposed project costs must be provided at a level of detail sufficient to justify the amount of grant funds requested.
 - a. The County reserves the right to request additional information about the estimated costs of a proposed project.
5. The resolutions included with the application form are mandatory.
 - a. Applications may be submitted without all of the required resolutions. However, applications submitted with signed and dated resolutions will be given priority over those that are not.
 - b. If an application is submitted without one or more completed resolutions, the expected date of passage of the resolution/s must be provided.
6. Comprehensive plans must be completed within 36 months of the grant award. A one-time extension of 6 months will be considered based on progress made to date.
7. Development of ordinances must be completed within 20 months.
8. Plans and ordinances must be adopted by all participating municipalities within the specified time period. If a participating municipality fails to adopt the plan or ordinance as required, the County shall be entitled to repayment by that municipality of an amount equal to the total grant amount divided by the number of participating municipalities.

Resources

1. *Allegheny Places*, the Allegheny County comprehensive plan is available on-line, along with many other resources and tools, at www.alleghenyplaces.com.
2. Planning Division staff is available to meet with municipalities to discuss this program. Give us a call at 412-350-1030.

² Checklist available at <http://www.alleghenyplaces.com/implementation/consistency.aspx>