



Illinois Bike/Walk Virtual Learning Collaborative Request for Applications



Summary Information

Purpose: The Illinois Bike/Walk Virtual Learning Collaborative will support communities across Illinois in identifying projects and understanding what will be needed to successfully apply for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. This year, **state funds make available \$50 million in new dedicated funding for walking and bicycling projects in Illinois with at least \$50 million available in dedicated funding in future ITEP funding cycles.** It is estimated that the new state funding could pay for at least 100 new bike/pedestrian projects a year, including safety infrastructure like pedestrian islands and better crosswalks, as well as protected bike lanes and multi-use trails.

Description: Committed cross-sector planning teams from up to 15 Illinois communities will form the learning collaborative cohort. Participants will receive professional development (PD), group technical assistance (TA), engage in peer-learning activities to build capacity to develop projects and proposals that will be eligible and competitive for ITEP funds.

The collaborative will consist of virtual meetings/webinars on the ITEP fund application process, best practice sharing for selecting eligible walking or biking projects and facilitated group technical assistance/peer-learning to address any challenges faced in developing proposals. Note: Grant-writing and application submission assistance are not services provided through this collaborative.

Application due date and time: Friday, May 8, 2020, 5:00pm CT

Awardees will be notified by: Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Compensation: Participants will receive \$500 in funding per team (via a letter of agreement with one team member's organization) to compensate them for their time and contributions to the learning sessions, and/or for any community engagement activities they might conduct to develop their project ideas.

Project timeline: June 2020 - October 2020 (teams whose projects are funded through ITEP will be eligible for up to two additional TA calls through 2022, as needed and contingent on other expectations outlined in the Award Expectations section of the application). The Learning Collaborative kick-off online meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 3rd from 1:30pm-3:00pm. The rest of the schedule will be released in late spring/early summer 2020. The estimated time commitment is 4 hours per team member per month.

Eligibility: Committed cross-sector planning teams of at least two people or more from Illinois communities are invited to apply. Multi-jurisdictional teams may apply. Examples of relevant sectors represented by teams are below (participating sectors are not limited to this list):

- public health;
- transportation;
- planning;
- school district;
- public works;
- parks and recreation;
- tourism;
- economic development;
- healthcare;
- elected official;
- organizations or individuals representing or supporting key constituencies, such as individuals with disabilities and those disproportionately facing barriers to being safely physically active.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

- Population served: More points will be given to teams/projects that serve low-income communities, rural communities, and/or communities of color.
- Organizational/team capacity: More points will be given to teams from communities/regions with limited to medium planning capacity (i.e. Not large-capacity communities)
- Proposed project reach and impact: While it's not required that teams have a definitive project in mind, applications will be given more points for:
 - Ideas that have the greatest potential for connecting activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations
 - Ideas that can potentially reach a large population and/or have deep impact for a specific population
 - Projects or teams that are committed to submitting an ITEP program application in the fall of 2020.

In selecting the final pool of communities/teams to participate, the selection team will also consider representation across diverse geographies, community sizes, and population impacted.

Applications will be reviewed by a team of Illinois public health and active transportation organizations. **Please send applications and questions to:** Sarah.Chusid@iphionline.org with subject line "Illinois Bike/Walk Virtual Learning Collaborative Application."

Introduction

Purpose

The Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI), in partnership with Active Transportation Alliance (ATA), is pleased to announce an opportunity to participate in the Illinois Bike/Walk Virtual Learning Collaborative. The Illinois Transportation Enhancements Program (ITEP) fund -- which includes \$50 million in new dedicated state funding for biking and walking projects for 2020-- is *the* major new opportunity for Illinois communities to receive funding for projects that will increase opportunities for physical activity in the built environment.

It is estimated that the new state funding could pay for at least 100 new bike/pedestrian projects a year, including safety infrastructure like pedestrian islands and better crosswalks, as well as protected bike lanes and multi-use trails. The bike and pedestrian funds will be awarded through a competitive grant process. However, many communities across the state have limited capacity to develop appropriate projects and prepare to apply for the funds. This learning collaborative will build capacity in Illinois communities to develop projects that will be eligible and competitive to be awarded ITEP funds.

The Illinois Bike/Walk Virtual Learning Collaborative will engage communities statewide. Committed cross-sector planning teams from up to 15 communities will form the learning collaborative cohort and will receive professional development, group technical assistance, and peer learning to build their capacity. The collaborative consists of a series of virtual meetings/webinars on the ITEP fund application process and best practices for selecting eligible walking and biking projects, and facilitated group TA/peer-learning discussions to address challenges communities are facing in developing proposals. Note: Grant-writing and application submission assistance are not services provided through this collaborative.

Participating teams will receive \$500 per team in funding to compensate them for their time and contributions to the learning sessions, and/or any community engagement activities they would conduct to develop their project ideas. The anticipated time commitment is 4 hours per team member per month.

Background

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), physical activity can reduce the risk of at least 20 chronic diseases and conditions, provide effective treatment for many of those conditions, and support positive mental health and healthy aging.¹ Yet the physical activity levels of Illinoisans remain low, with 24.6% of adults reporting doing no physical activity

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Step it up! The surgeon general's call to action to promote walking and walkable communities. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General; 2015.

or exercise other than their regular job in the past 30 days in 2018.² African-American, Hispanic and Asian adults in Illinois were less likely to be physically active than Caucasian adults.²

The causes of physical inactivity are numerous and complex. Factors such as perception of unsafe communities, limited access to active-friendly routes and public transit options, and poor road/sidewalk conditions can limit physical activity – conditions experienced disproportionately in low-income, rural, and communities of color that have been the hardest hit by chronic diseases like type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

Active Living Research, in a series of research reviews and briefs, has pointed to such diverse factors as access to recreational environments (e.g., parks, trails), physical activity programs (e.g., in childcare, school, and after school), open and accessible schoolyards, and characteristics that make communities “walkable” (having nearby destinations to walk and safe direct routes to get to them) as having a positive influence on physical activity levels.³

The Illinois Public Health Institute leads the Illinois State Physical Activity and Nutrition (ISPAN) program, which works to support Illinois communities in the development and implementation of plans/projects that will create more walkable, bikeable, transit-friendly places. ISPAN’s built environment improvement work is part of Active People, Healthy Illinois, the state-level arm of CDC’s national Active People, Healthy Nation initiative, with a goal to help 27 million Americans become more physically active by 2027.

ISPAN is made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Program Overview

Award Components

Selected teams will receive the below-described support:

- Enrollment in a series of virtual meetings (three content-based webinars and three virtual peer learning/group TA meetings) on the ITEP fund application process and best practices for selecting eligible walking or biking projects, and facilitated group TA/peer-learning discussions to address challenges communities are facing in developing proposals.
- \$500 per team in funding to compensate for time and contributions to the learning sessions, and/or any community engagement activities teams might conduct to develop

² CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2018

³ Active Living Research. Designing for Active Transportation. 2005. Retrieved on March 3, 2020 at <https://activelivingresearch.org/built-environment-and-location-based-physical-activity>.

ISPAN is made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in collaboration with the Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity, administered by the Illinois Public Health Institute.

their project ideas. A letter of agreement with one team member's organization will be put in place to provide the \$500.

- Teams whose projects are funded through ITEP funds will be eligible for up to two additional technical assistance calls with Active Transportation Alliance through 2022, as needed and contingent on other expectations outlined in the Award Expectations section of the application.

Award Expectations

The items below will be expected of participating teams:

- Community planning teams must consist of least one representative from two different sectors. Below is a list of examples (applicants are not limited to this list). Multi-jurisdictional teams may apply:
 - public health;
 - transportation;
 - planning;
 - school district;
 - public works;
 - parks and recreation;
 - tourism;
 - economic development;
 - healthcare;
 - elected official;
 - and organizations or individuals representing or supporting key constituencies, such as individuals with disabilities and those disproportionately facing barriers to being safely physically active
- Each team member (or a surrogate, as necessary) must commit to attending all six learning collaborative sessions. The Learning Collaborative kick-off online meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 3rd from 1:30pm-3:00pm. The rest of the schedule will be released in late spring/early summer 2020. The time commitment for participation is approximately 4 hours a month.
- Teams must submit to IPHI a short report on the proposed project and the impact that participating in the learning collaborative had on local planning by October 31, 2020.
- If their projects are funded, participants would also be eligible for up to two additional TA calls with ATA through 2022.
- If the project receives ITEP funds, teams will be requested to report implementation progress (including how many bike/walk miles were impacted) to IPHI at least yearly through July 2023.
- Sign a letter of agreement with ATA committing to these award components and expectations and to enable dispersion of the compensation stipend.

Application

Planning Team Information

1. Designate and provide primary contact person for team:

2. Primary contact's title and organization (e.g. Senior Planner at City of DeSoto):

3. Primary contact's email address:

4. Primary contact's phone number:

5. Second team member's name:

6. Second team member's title and organization:

7. Second team member's email address:

8. Second team member's phone number:

9. Names of other team members and their titles/organizations:

10. Community/County or Region (include all if multi-jurisdictional):

11. Demographics – please briefly describe the total population of the community/service area and a brief description of key demographics such as poverty rates, race/ethnicity, urban/rural, age, disability, etc.:

12. Please describe why your team wants to participate in the learning collaborative. Include what you think you can contribute to peer learning as well as what you want to receive/learn.

13. Please describe the staffing capacity the community/region has available to support implementation of this work (i.e. do you have planners or engineers on staff; do you have capacity to get letters of support, engage the community, and/or complete phase 1 engineering? NOTE: having staff is NOT a requirement of this learning collaborative):

14. Do you already have a walking or biking project in mind? Circle answer: Yes/No

15. If yes, briefly describe the project idea. If not, please describe how you will identify the project idea (no more than 200 words):

16. Please describe the potential impact your project could have on the community (no more than 100 words):

Certifications

Learning Collaborative Meetings/Webinars

17. Each team member (or a surrogate, as necessary) commits to attending all six learning collaborative sessions from June-October 2020. (Yes/No):

Reporting

18. The team commits to completing a short report on the project and the impact the learning collaborative had on local planning by October 31, 2020. (Yes/No):

19. If project receives ITEP funds, the team commits to reporting progress to IPHI at least yearly through July 2023. (Yes/No):

Letter of Agreement

20. The primary contact's organization commits to signing a letter of agreement with ATA committing to award components and expectations as described? Sample letters of agreement available for review upon request. (Yes/No):

To Apply

Please submit this completed application to Sarah Chusid at sarah.chusid@iphionline.org with subject line "Bike/Walk Virtual Learning Collaborative Application." by **Friday, May 8, 2020, 5:00pm CT.**