

2020 Technical Assistance Program Fact Sheet



What is the Technical Assistance Program?

For well over 25 years, the Commission has offered short-term technical assistance to member units of local government within our region. As much as \$100,000 of the county's levy charges for RPC membership have been allocated to this program annually in order to encourage and support our communities in conducting proper and timely planning efforts. The Commission is once again seeking projects for 2020 under this program. Remember that a set of fees for certain project types was established starting in 2019 (attached). Many of these project types would still benefit from cost-sharing provided by the Commission.

What kind of projects can ECWRPC do for you under this program?

A wide variety of planning skills and services can be provided by East Central's staff under our Technical Assistance Program. A generalized listing of topics is below and a more detailed listing is attached to provide project ideas:

1. General Planning (Comprehensive plan element updates, implementation of plan recommendations, zoning issues, etc.)
2. Economic Development (Grant assistance, funding identification, industrial park conceptual layouts, marketing data, industry cluster data, economic analyses and strategies)
3. Transportation (Local road and street issues, traffic forecasts/analyses, PASER inventories, sign inventories, Safe Routes to School projects, bicycle and pedestrian planning, etc.)
4. Community Facilities/Infrastructure (Long range planning for sewer, water, stormwater, utilities, etc.)
5. Park, Open Space and Recreation (Recreation plans, trail plans, park site planning, etc.)
6. Environmental Management (Wetland, floodplain, farmland, groundwater or conservation issues, etc.)
7. Demographic Services (Census data, trend analysis/interpretation, housing studies/assessments)
8. Geographic Information Systems (Data development, custom mapping, map updates, on-line mapping and tourism/marketing materials)

Commission staff is always available to answer quick planning-related questions, provide verbal or written guidance, writing grant support letters, and attend/present at public meetings if required. Our staff prides themselves on their accumulated knowledge of planning subjects and extensive network of contacts within various federal, state, and local agencies/departments. If a new project or opportunity presents itself during the course of the year please contact us to let us know, as some additional time may be available through one of our federal or state programs to assist you at little to no cost.

What do project requests need to conform to?

Projects listed should generally be of small scale, localized in nature, and typically should not take more than three to five days of staff time to complete (approx. 24-40 hours total – excluding travel time and night meetings). In most instances, projects should generally be started and completed in the same calendar year. Many of these small scale projects could still potentially be done for no-cost, however; please consult the attached Fee Schedule for applicability. Call us with any questions!

How do I apply for assistance?

Please confer with your county's/community's department heads and/or Board/Council, Plan Commission, and/or Park and Recreation Committees on this opportunity over the next several weeks and provide your project descriptions for consideration. An online form is available by visiting: <https://www.ecwrpc.org/2019/05/13/now-seeking-2020-technical-assistance-project-requests/>

When are project requests due?

Project requests should be submitted to the Commission **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 4th, 2019.**

How are projects selected and when will I be notified?

Please note that as much as the Commission wishes that it could meet every request, it may be impossible to do so given our level of staffing and obligations to existing federal and state program areas. The Commission's Steering Committee will be reviewing and evaluating requests in order to prioritize and schedule a set of projects for 2020 using a ranking system which gives preference to cost-shared efforts. A listing of selected projects for formal inclusion in the Commission's 2020 Work Program will be completed by early December of 2019 and all applicants will be notified shortly thereafter.

For questions/more information:

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