

ASSET DEVELOPMENT PLANNING GRANT

DEFINITION

Asset Development Planning means:

Identifying and mapping the critical assets that support the community's economic viability and quality of life,
Assessing the condition and sustainability of these critical assets,
Identifying strategies to improve or leverage their critical assets,
Identifying opportunities to develop or attract new assets to fill critical economic viability or quality of life gaps, and
Developing action plans to implement the top priority strategies, as determined by the community.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Asset Development Planning Grant Program is to assist communities having a need for community planning to improve economic viability or quality of life.

Eligible plans include comprehensive and community plans with a focus on asset development and sustainability. Plans may range:

From fundamental plans that simply map community assets, assess these assets, and develop projects to strengthen them, e.g., a mapping and assessment of basic water and sewer infrastructure needed to sustain economic viability and quality of life resulting in action plans to improve them;

To complex plans that include smart growth, land use, asset mapping, leadership capacity development, and other strategic approaches that, when combined, lead to sound, effective, and overall community asset development and sustainability.

AVAILABLE FUNDS

A total of **\$30,000** per year will be dedicated to the Asset Development Planning Grant Program.

GRANT SIZE

The grant size will be determined by MDA based on the nature and scope of individual projects, the population, and the number of local units of government participating. The recommended grant size is \$2,500.

MATCH REQUIREMENT

Proof of a cash match of at least 50 percent of the total project cost will be required. Proposals with additional in-kind match will receive favorable consideration.

THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS

The applicant(s) must not have any unresolved audit or monitoring findings.

To be considered, a proposal must include the following commitments to plan and implement the resulting plan:

1. A resolution from the governing board of the local unit of government committing to participate in the planning process and to making a concerted effort to implement the resulting plan. Where multiple units of government participate, a resolution must be included from each.
2. A resolution from one or more civic/chamber/economic development organizations generally representing community interests committing to participate in the planning process and to make a concerted effort to implement the resulting plan.
3. Designation of a team of local citizens with leadership capacity who indicate by signed letter(s) their commitment to help guide the planning process and implement the resulting plan.
4. Evidence of the commitment of in-kind or other support for the planning process.
5. Other evidence of general community support.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Any local unit of government seeking funding must first submit a letter to the MDA-Asset Development Division stating its intent, eligibility, general planning goals, and draft budget. Based upon an initial review of the proposal, MDA may require a meeting with the relevant parties to discuss the project and establish clear asset development and sustainability planning goals.

Letters will be accepted beginning **July 1 of each year** and will be considered on a first come continual basis until the **January 1 of the following year** or until funds are depleted, whichever comes sooner.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

1. How the proposed project will contribute to the development of a planning process that will serve as a guide for on-going asset development and sustainability.
2. How the proposed project will aid in, or contribute to the involvement or improved leadership capacities of various community groups, advisory councils, planning/zoning districts, redevelopment authorities etc., in the ongoing planning process.
3. The level of commitment to planning and plan implementation shown by the commitment resolutions/letters included in the proposal.
4. MDA's Executive Director may, at his/her discretion waive any of the above requirements