

# **MUNICIPAL PLANNING and FINANCING for CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

- Please add to the chat your name, municipality, and role within your municipality



# The Civic Innovation Hub

Facilitated by

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Brief Introductions

## Zoom Basics

- Use the chat feature to ask questions or make comments during presentations
- Change your name
- Mute and unmute

## Commitments

Basic commitments:

- As facilitators, we will
  - Respectfully listen to you
  - Move at a deliberate pace
  - Ask you to place questions in the chat “parking lot”
  - Keep jargon to a minimum
- We expect everyone to
  - Step up, step back
  - Actively listen
  - Mutual Respect
  - Respectfully disagree

## Agenda

- Civic Innovation Hub Overview
- Breakout 1:
  - What have we organized in our communities?
- SLIDE DECK: Municipal Planning and Financing for Climate Resilience
- Panel:
  - Pathways to Successfully Collaborating with your Municipality
- Wrap-up

A photograph of a landscaped road intersection. In the foreground, a paved road curves around a central flower bed. The flower bed is filled with tall green grasses, yellow flowers, and pink flowers. In the background, there are lush green trees and a building partially visible. A semi-transparent white banner is at the top, and a semi-transparent white box with text is in the middle.

## Vision

The Calumet Region is a region in which **infrastructure solutions** are planned and built with **resident and community leadership**.

## Mission

Organize residents in the Calumet Region, *in partnership* with local governments, to get results on *social, economic, and environmental infrastructure*, such as resilient stormwater management, by providing education, data analysis and tools, community advocacy and knowledge-building resources, and networking opportunities.

The Civic Innovation Hub will prepare municipalities to make use of the RainReady funds, which Cook County has earmarked to implement the 2017 RainReady plans.

## Organizations



8

introduce ourselves



## What? Green Infrastructure and other Solutions

**Green infrastructure** refers to natural systems including forests, floodplains, wetlands and soils that provide additional benefits for human well-being, such as flood protection and climate regulation.

**Gray infrastructure** refers to structures such as sewers, pipes, roads, water treatment plants, dams, seawalls, or roads.

## **The time is now!**

- Municipalities have opportunities to receive funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, EJ grants, etc.
- Recent Flooding showed us our efforts are critical

## Looking Ahead to the Capstone

- Tools and skills we've built in the last few workshops:
- Fundamental understanding of stormwater
- Assess community conditions
  - Sharing stories with neighbors
  - Urban Flooding Baseline Map
- Community organizing and Asset mapping

Next month → bring these tools together in a Rapid Vulnerability Assessment

## Group Discussion

Let's talk about the rains that started July 4th weekend.

- What has been your experience?
- How did you handle things as a household?
- Did you organize with neighbors?
- How did your municipality respond? Is there room for improvement?



# **Municipal Planning and Financing 101**

Overview of some basics, but it is important to note that limited funding and aging infrastructure present particular challenges



- Public Works - responsible for infrastructure - Roads, snowplowing, drinking water, stormwater. Some communities even have an engineer on staff. Most of the communities represented here don't have engineers on staff, but many do contract with an outside engineer.
- Planning staff - responsible for planning for land use, economic and community development, emergency preparedness, etc. Often will work with other departments like public works, police, or fire to develop plans that will include priorities for stormwater infrastructure. Planning should generally involve public engagement and plans should reflect the desires and vision of community members. Many of the communities represented here don't have full time planning staff.
- The town Manager or Administrator oversees the budget and is ultimately responsible for all of the town's departments. This means that the Manager is ultimately responsible for Stormwater management on the communities roadways and other public spaces and infrastructure. The Manager is responsible for developing a capital plan, which is the plan for how all of the projects the town needs to take on will be funded. Sometimes the planning staff will also work with the Village Manager or other financial staff to develop a capital plan.



- Generally, the largest source of finance for any municipality is taxes. Property taxes are collected by the County and then paid out to the municipalities. Sales taxes are also a source of revenue in our communities, though some communities have much less of this than others. In other states, some municipalities are able to levy an income tax, though the Illinois Constitution does not give this power to our municipalities.
- A major source of funding communities can access to address infrastructure repairs and upgrades is the State revolving loan fund. Recently, IL modified this funding source so that green infrastructure can be funded along with grey infrastructure. Generally when communities apply for funding, they have to pay back the SRF, though communities with lower median household income are often offered partial or total loan forgiveness.
- The County, State, and Federal governments often have targeted grants that can cover stormwater infrastructure. These programs ebb and flow - right now there is a lot of Federal money for infrastructure that communities generally access through the state, the county, or through CMAP - the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, which is responsible for distributing a lot of the federal transportation dollars. When communities complete total road rebuilds, they redo storm infrastructure, so federal transportation funding can be a way that communities can attend to storm infrastructure. There are a few programs directly administered by the federal government. For example FEMA disaster funding and some EPA funding both can be applied to stormwater infrastructure.
- Private grants and foundations.(Civic Innovation Hub - OAI)
- Stormwater fees

A photograph of a flooded street under a bridge. A traffic light is visible above the water. The water is dark and reflects some light. A car is partially submerged in the water on the right side. The background shows some buildings and trees under a grey sky.

## Discussion

What are the impacts of being in communities that are not so well funded and have aging infrastructure? How does not having planning or engineering staff impact our communities?





- Public meetings (Open meetings act)
- Public engagement in planning processes
  - This unfortunately doesn't happen as much as might be appropriate with engineering/ stormwater projects (Blue Island) - this can be an issue especially with outside consultants.
- Public led demands/ organizing
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- Traditionally this is when a private, for profit entity partners with government to provide a service that traditionally has been provided by government. The funding for this service either comes from the government's budget or from fees for the service the private entity is providing. Interestingly, non-profits and community groups can also end up in relationships with government that look similar, though often they will add privately fundraised dollars or will be contributing a lot of volunteer time. Obviously relying on volunteers or private fundraising for government services can lead to gaps in services. As we move into our capstone projects, this will be something to think through pretty carefully.
- Lots of funding opportunities right now with the inflation reduction act as well as the bi-partisan infrastructure bill. As we get into our capstone projects, this will be something to we can dig into with your communities.

## **PANEL: Pathways to Successfully Partnering with your Municipality**

- Who are you? What is your position? In what ways have you collaborated with municipalities to improve stormwater infrastructure?
- How can we access grant writing assistance?
- Who is the first person we should talk to if we want a rain garden on public property?