

Civic  
Consulting  
alliance

we get big  
things done

November  
2023  
Newsletter

## Cook County launches new program to help municipalities make critical infrastructure investments

*An influx of capital and recovery funding provides an opportunity for municipalities to make infrastructure investments that will improve residents' quality of life, reduce racial and ethnic disparities, and mitigate the effects of climate change.*

Cook County is home to more than 130 municipalities – cities, towns, and villages that range in size (for example, the village of Phoenix has fewer than 2,000 residents). While these numerous independent governments support residents' desire for local control, the sheer number of them creates significant challenges in the delivery of certain government functions, particularly capital investments – transportation, water, sewer, and public building investments – that require scale and specialized capacity.

Cook County recently launched the Build Up Cook program to help municipalities with capital planning, project management, and compliance. The program is designed to [prioritize working with communities that have experienced historic disinvestment](#). It is a significant step forward in the County's efforts to provide sustainable support for municipalities to improve their infrastructure, bolster economic development, and address residents' needs. The Chicago Tribune article, "[Posen, Phoenix mayors say Cook County program to tackle infrastructure troubles is paying dividends](#)" details the impact the pilot program has already made in the south suburbs.

Since 2021, Civic Consulting Alliance and our *pro bono* partners supported Cook County and its Bureau of Asset Management to strategize and implement the Build Up Cook program. This collaboration resulted in the development of a strategy, implementation roadmap, data tools, and an Interagency Working Group to support municipalities in accessing and investing recovery funds.

[Read more about Build Up Cook in our 2023 Impact Report](#)



Help us spread the word about this project by [resharing our Build Up Cook post on LinkedIn](#).

## Reports we're currently reading



The Office of Equity and Racial Justice released the City's first [Equity Report](#), highlighting progress towards institutionalizing racial equity across City government. Read the report to learn about



CTA, Metra, and PACE are heading toward a fiscal cliff as emergency federal assistance is expiring and ridership remains below pre-pandemic levels. A \$730 million (20%) budget shortfall is

the 25 City departments that crafted racial equity plans to address everything from housing to tree trimming to police and community engagement.

From the report, we're particularly proud of supporting the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability's (CCPSA) goal to foster trust between civilians and law enforcement. In early 2023, we worked with CCPSA Commissioners to outline a process for recruiting and selecting Police Superintendent candidates. The process involved seven community listening sessions, meetings with relevant unions, surveys, and targeted listening sessions with a diverse range of organizations. Over 600 responses were gathered, ensuring that community voices were heard in this critical decision.

projected for 2026.

Big, bold solutions are needed to secure the financial viability of our region's transit system.

To address this challenge, a diverse group of leaders from across northeastern Illinois [drafted a Plan of Action for Regional Transit \(PART\)](#) with recommendations that can help the region invest in a stronger and more financially secure transit system.

Civic Consulting Alliance advised the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) on how to develop a strategic approach to convene the steering committee that informed the recommendations of the PART Report. *Pro bono* partners Analytics8 and Crowe developed materials to help inform the committee's recommendations.

### Client & partner updates

ANNOUNCING OUR SEVENTH CHALLENGE FOR CHICAGO



UNITING CHICAGO'S INNOVATORS TO OVERCOME LOCAL CHALLENGES

PRESENTED BY  CHICAGO INNOVATION  **accenture**

IN COLLABORATION WITH  COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT  Civic Consulting alliance

**Topic:** Using emerging technology to close the digital divide and support the future workforce

**Date:** Friday, December 1st from 9-11 am  
[Register](#) for the virtual session

Innovation In Action is a concerted effort to convene the region's innovators to ideate against the city's biggest challenges. We will partner with Cook County to focus on digital equity, and "using emerging technology to close the digital divide and support the future workforce."

### CIBC Bank USA fellowship spotlights



Luis Gallegos

"Realizing the impact of the work one does at Civic Consulting Alliance is sure to be memorable. For myself, it was the moment when I was listening to a local radio news station and heard that a key person Civic Consulting Alliance supported during the Mayoral Transition handoff meetings had been appointed as one of the new Administration's deputy mayors. It was a rewarding feeling knowing we had supported one of the new deputy mayors with their knowledge-gathering and organizing for their entrance into City Hall. "



**Fernando Lopez-Flores**  
Commercial Banking Associate II  
CIBC Bank USA

"My time at Civic Consulting Alliance has shown me that meaningful and impactful work starts somewhere and this organization gives you that opportunity to engage in that.

If there is an issue that should be addressed in the city or Chicago-area, Civic Consulting Alliance is likely already engaged in it and doing their best to find solutions. It was an eye-opening experience and gave me insight into the consulting world as well."

*Civic Consulting Alliance Fellowships are full-time positions that typically last between three months and a year. Fellows are integrated into project teams for a unique professional development opportunity. Please visit our [Fellowships](#) page to learn more about our range of fellowship opportunities.*

## Thank you to our funders!

Civic Consulting Alliance is grateful for the critical support of all of our funders. Since our last newsletter, we were thrilled to receive philanthropic commitments from the following corporations and foundations:

### General operating funders



### Project and platform funders



Support to achieve our Safety & Justice platform vision to facilitate institutional reform and collaborative transformation to address systemic inequities and make the Chicago region a safe and just place for all.

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CRAIG J. DUCHOSSOIS

Support to achieve our Safety & Justice platform vision.

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FINNEGAN FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

Support to achieve our Education platform vision to advance high quality education and equitable access to opportunity for all Chicago students to prepare them for lifelong success and fulfillment.

POLK BROS  
FOUNDATION

Support to achieve our Economic Vitality and Safety & Justice platform visions.

Questions? Comments? Contact [Nikki Way](#)



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