

2024 WalkWorks Justin R. Lehman Community Capacity-Building Pre-Planning  
Funding Opportunity Announcement  
Public Release of Responses to Questions on the FOA  
5/24/2024

*Questions are in bold, answers in plain text.*

*Many of the questions are about the Capacity-Building Program but the answers also touch on the WalkWorks Active Transportation Planning Grant Program as well.*

**Are municipalities who currently have an application in for the Development of Active Transportation Plans funding able to apply, in the case that they may not be awarded and can use this funding to prepare to reapply in the future?**

Yes, provided they are in a target area (SPAN county and/or 60+ percentile in aggregate per capita in PennEnviroScreen), they would be eligible to apply and could likely repurpose some of their ATP application.

As a reminder, the Department of Health SPAN counties are Erie, Clearfield, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mercer, Northumberland, Philadelphia. For the Department of Environmental Protection PennEnviroScreen Tool, use this [link](#) and [this map](#).

**Is there a link available for the webinar from April 18?**

It is posted [here](#).

**I'm intending on filing for a project in \_\_\_\_\_ County. They'll do the final submissions of course, but I was wondering if it would be possible to get the application for this program so I can "fill in the blanks" for their review. We're a small county and they're just swamped with DCED / CBG things right now.**

Certainly. We encourage community members and area organizations to be involved in the process and support municipal efforts. In fact, for the Capacity-Building Program, the municipality is required to identify three community contacts. While one of them must be an elected official, the other two could be from area organizations, school districts, non-profits, chambers, etc, and could also simply be interested and motivated residents.

The Capacity-Building Program application itself is available [here](#) as a standalone Word document.

The full Capacity-Building Funding Opportunity Announcement is available [here](#).

**We are working on multimodal designs for a specific corridor. Is this program a fit for us?**

In terms of a specific corridor project, no, the Capacity-Building Program only provides support for eligible communities to prepare to apply for WalkWorks Active Transportation Planning funding the following year.

**We are working on a borough-wide planning grant application under the US DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All program. In the process it has come up whether the county needs an Active Transportation Plan as well?**

If a municipality were to get awarded a SS4A planning grant that would certainly go well beyond what you could do with WalkWorks funds and the Capacity-Building Program would not be the right direction to go in any case, as it only provides pre-planning assistance and does not support the development of the actual plan. Nor are either the Capacity-Building Program or the WalkWorks Active Transportation Planning funds provided on a timeline that would permit them to match the much longer timeline of a SS4A grant. ATP awards are made and the plans must be developed and adopted over the subsequent 12 months.

However, it could be good for the county and/or surrounding townships to consider doing some AT planning. They could apply to do a multimunicipal or county Active Transportation Plan with WalkWorks funds (applications for that would be due next March and they would be expected to provide the 50% of the grant ask as match).

Looking at the DEP EnviroScreen Tool for the area, it is clear that while the county as a whole would not be a priority either by Department of Health SPAN rankings or DEP Environmental Justice criteria, the four census block groups immediately surrounding \_\_\_\_\_ Borough would, on average, come out to a PennEnviroScreen percentile rating of just above 60%. That means those areas, if they were a useful grouping, could potentially qualify for priority funding through WalkWorks. That said, the relevant townships might not have any interest in slicing up their jurisdictions and associating that way, but it could be an option to address nearby topics without requiring the provision of matching funds.

**Can this program provide funding for a walk audit in our area?**

Much of the time walk audits are completed on a volunteer basis, or a given municipality can access subsidized (free to them) assistance from PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program. In other words, there's not a lot of funding involved.

In addition, many regions in PA have now received federal funding from the USDOT for the development of Comprehensive Safety Action Plans. It might be possible to incorporate the

walk audit activities being sought into that process. The federal expectation is that community partners like non-profits will participate in those planning processes.

**Will WalkWorks offer funding for non-profits in 2025/26?**

As of right now, we do not anticipate funding non-profits directly. However, we encourage and invite non-profits to take part in planning in many ways. That could mean encouraging municipal leaders to seek funding for Active Transportation Planning; it might mean highlighting the relevance of Active Transportation in your area; and it might mean supporting ongoing planning efforts by supporting staff with participating in Steering Committees or providing data and input from your sector to enrich the plan development.