



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-1000

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT

July 18, 2022

Mr. Bart Ellefritz
Authorized Representative
Chicago Transit Authority
567 W. Lake Street
Chicago, IL 60661
Email: bellefritz@transitchicago.com

Dear Mr. Ellefritz:

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, (P.L. 117-103) (the Act), Congress made available “grants for the Economic Development Initiative for the purposes of Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending.” These Community Project Funding (CPF) awards are administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Pursuant to the requirements associated with the Act, this Letter of Invitation (LOI) is an important step in the grant award process and outlines the grant award requirements and the information needed from you to prepare the Grant Agreement for execution. Once we receive and verify your information, we will send your Grant Agreement for signature.

The information we received about your project in the Act’s Joint Explanatory Statement (JES) is below. A Grant Number has been generated and will be the unique identifier for your project during the grant process. The Grant Number is noted below.

Grantee:	Chicago Transit Authority
Project Description:	CTA Red Line Extension—Workforce Development
Grant Amount:	\$1,500,000.00
Grant Number:	B-22-CP-IL-0300

The next step is for you to provide 1) your organization’s Authorized Representative, 2) a detailed project narrative, 3) a line-item budget, and 4) certain Federal forms. The detailed project narrative should capture the maximum anticipated scope of the proposal, not just a single activity that the CPF grant is going toward. It should include all contemplated actions that are part of the project. The line-item budget should identify the use of the CPF grant funds in context of the full project budget.

The “FY2022 Community Project Funding Grant Guide” (CPF Grant Guide) provides instructions for completing the requested information and filling out the required administrative forms. The CPF Grant Guide also provides information on the appropriations-specific and cross-cutting Federal requirements that govern these funds. Links to the required forms are included in the Grant Guide as an attachment to this letter and on our website at this link: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/edi-grants

Upon receipt of your information, we will review the materials for consistency with the intent of Congress as set forth in the JES and prepare your Grant Agreement for signature. If there are questions about any of the information provided, the Department will notify you prior to issuing the Grant Agreement.

Please note two important considerations regarding allowable costs:

The first is that the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, prohibits CPF funds from being used to reimburse expenses incurred before the date the CPF Grant Agreement is executed.

The second is that, in keeping with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and HUD's NEPA-implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 50 or 24 CFR Part 58, **environmental reviews must be completed, and a Request for Release of Funds and Certification must be approved by HUD, as applicable, for all projects prior to taking any 'choice limiting actions.'** This step is required to avoid violations under 24 CFR 58.22 which provides limitations on activities pending clearance, and Section 110(k) of the National Historic Preservation Act which prohibits anticipatory demolition or significant harm of historic properties prior to completion of the historic preservation review process known as Section 106 review. Examples of 'choice limiting actions' include, but are not limited to, purchasing land, entering into contracts for property acquisition or construction, or physical work on the project.

HUD has determined the federalization of CPF projects as the date of this Letter of Invitation. This is also referred to as the federal 'nexus' date for environmental review for CPF projects. To prevent choice limiting actions from occurring, following issuance of this letter, you may not commit funds or take any actions (outside of existing contracts) until an environmental review is completed. Further explanation of choice limiting actions and the environmental review process, including historic preservation review, is included within the CPF Grant Guide.

All information required for your grant award should be submitted via email to the dedicated mailbox at CPFGrants@hud.gov. In transmitting your information, please copy and paste the bolded information as the subject line of your email:

B-22-CP-IL-0300: Chicago Transit Authority: Submission of Required LOI Materials.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding how to complete or submit the required documents or about your grant in general, please feel free to contact, Shaina Glover, CPD Congressional Grants Division, at Shaina.Y.Glover@hud.gov.

We look forward to working with you on this important project!

Sincerely,



Robin J. Keegan
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Economic Development

ATTACHMENTS
FY 2022 Community Project Funding Grant Guide