

SEMCOG Planning Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is SEMCOG's Planning Assistance Program?

SEMCOG's Planning Assistance Program is a competitive grant program providing direct funding for local planning projects that move regional plans and priorities forward. To date, this program has awarded over \$3.8 million to over 100 projects.

SEMCOG prioritizes **multi-community** and **regionally impactful** planning projects related to the following key topics of regional significance:

1. Transportation safety and corridor analysis
2. Trails and greenways
3. Sustainable infrastructure
4. Pedestrian placemaking

Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants are **counties, cities, villages, townships, intermediate school districts, and community colleges** in **Southeast Michigan**. All applications must include the signature of the Chief Elected Official from the community seeking funding. If the application is for a multi-community project, commitment from the other communities or stakeholders participating in the effort should be included.

How will proposals be evaluated?

The evaluation process will consist of two phases:

1. Technical review by SEMCOG staff

SEMCOG staff will review applications to ensure eligibility and completeness. Inclusion of supporting documents, such as maps, photographs, resolutions, and regional plans that support the project, if applicable, are encouraged (letters of support are welcome but not required).

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2. Final selection by the Regional Review Committee

The [Regional Review Committee](#) is a SEMCOG committee of local elected officials responsible for making project selection. They will award projects that are consistent with SEMCOG's regional plans and represent a regionally balanced distribution of funds. In selecting projects, the Regional Review Committee **will** consider the following factors:

- The project's type, size, and location
- The extent to which the project implements SEMCOG regional plans, applies a holistic planning approach, and displays applicant's commitment to implementing project results
- A multi-community approach
- History of previous awards received, especially receipt of Planning Assistance Program funding
- Project's ability to serve as a regional pilot and potential to be transferred or applied to other locations or communities that may wish to replicate it

What is the maximum grant request?

The maximum grant request is generally **\$45,000 per proposal** but may differ depending on the project year. This includes both the federal award portion provided by SEMCOG and the local match of non-federal funds. For example, if a community applies for and is awarded the maximum grant request of \$45,000, the grant recipient will be reimbursed 81.85% (or \$36,832.50) and will be responsible to provide a local non-federal match of 18.15% (or \$8,167.50).

For Multi-Community Corridor Planning, the maximum award amount is \$75,000, which includes the required 18.15% match.

SEMCOG intends to award funds to several projects that address one or more of the eligible project types and that are consistent with and implement regional plans. Also, due to funding limitations, awarded projects may receive less than the requested amount.

Is there a matching requirement?

All projects are required to include local match of at least 18.15% of the requested grant using non-federal funds. The grant recipient will be required to certify that non-federal dollars are available to fund this match requirement as part of the grant agreement. The grant recipient will be required to invoice SEMCOG for 100% of the grant award expenditures as they are incurred monthly. The grant recipient will be reimbursed for the 81.85% federal award portion.

What is the application deadline?

SEMCOG issued a request for applications on April 8, 2026. The application deadline is May 22, 2026. Complete applications should be submitted by this deadline, but SEMCOG staff may request additional information to ensure an accurate review. We anticipate the funds will be available July 1, 2026, and must be expended by June 30, 2027.

Administrative Requirements

- Agreements over \$25,000 require the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) review and approval.
- Sub-contracts over \$25,000 must follow MDOT's procurement process unless there is justification for sole source.
- All work must be detailed on invoices, such as salary/fringe, travel, contracts, and descriptions of expenses that are requested for reimbursement.
- Invoices and progress status reports are required monthly.
- Recipient is to incur expenses, invoice SEMCOG, and SEMCOG will invoice MDOT; once funds are received from MDOT, the recipient will be reimbursed.
- Agreement by the recipient to include and work with SEMCOG staff in planning and development of the project.
- Agreement by the recipient that project outcomes and successes can be used for future trainings (e.g., SEMCOG Universities) and regional case studies promoted by SEMCOG; any physical, digital or GIS information/data developed is shared with SEMCOG for regional planning and/or online mapping or other applications.

SEMCOG Resources

Projects should demonstrate consistency with SEMCOG plans; and utilize, where appropriate provided data resources:

- [Vision 2050: Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan](#)
- [Transportation Safety Plan](#)
- [Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan](#)
- [Strategic Framework for GREEN](#)
- [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#)
- [Water Resources Plan](#)
- [Water Infrastructure Planning Guide](#)
- [Community Profiles Data](#)

Contact Information

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