

COMMUNITY APPLICATION



Strong Communities Initiative (SCI)

ELIGIBILITY:

Incorporated Illinois municipalities under 20,000 population within Compeer Financials' Illinois territory. (See territory map on page 5.)

TIMELINE:

Applications open Nov. 17, 2025 • **Deadline: Dec. 17, 2025 at 5 PM**
Announcement: First week of January 2026

INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete all sections and **submit application as pdfs to**
info@hometownconsultants.com with subject
"SCI Application – [Community Name]"

SECTION 1 - COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Municipality Name: _____

County: _____ **Population:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Website: _____

SECTION 2 - CONTACTS

Primary Contact Name: _____

Title: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

(Optional)

Secondary Contact Name: _____

Title: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____



SECTION 3 - LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Form of Government (Mayor-Council / Village Board / Commission / Other):

Number of Administrative Staff: _____ **Dedicated Economic Development Staff:** ☐ YES ☐ NO

Departments/Partners involved in SCI:

(List municipal departments and any external partners such as engineers, planners, consultants, or local organizations who will support SCI participation.)

SECTION 4 - CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

(A separate document may be attached to the email submission if needed to answer questions. Please reference section numbers in the document.)

Identify your top 2–3 challenges facing the community:

Describe any recent momentum or wins that demonstrate community progress:



SECTION 5 – PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS

Select up to three of the following Priority Focus Areas:

☐ Governance & Organizational Structure

☐ Economic Development Readiness

☐ Public Engagement & Communications

☐ Business Retention & Expansion

☐ Grant Readiness

SECTION 6 – ENGAGEMENT & COMMITMENT

SCI requires commitment and engagement by the selected communities.

Is your community committed to engaging in periodic meetings with HTC in order to successfully complete this program? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Will your community participate in the SCI Capstone Event (Spring 2026)? ☐ YES ☐ NO
(Participation is optional but highly encouraged.)

SECTION 7 – NARRATIVE RESPONSES

(A separate document may be attached to the email submission if needed to answer questions. Please reference section numbers in the document.)

A.) Vision & Priorities

Describe the vision for your community and the top priorities for revitalization or economic development over the next five years. Is this part of an ongoing vision or a new initiative?



B.) Program Relevance

Explain how participation in SCI will address your community's most significant challenges or opportunities.

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C.) Readiness and Momentum

Describe the readiness and momentum your community currently has to support successful participation (e.g., leadership alignment, ongoing projects, or recent wins).

[illegible]



CERTIFICATION

I certify that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the governing body and that the information provided is accurate.

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

COMPEER FINANCIAL TERRITORY – ILLINOIS ELIGIBILITY MAP

