

# 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. 31, 2025 at 5 PM**  
Announcement: First week of January 2026

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete all sections and **submit application as pdfs to [info@hometownconsultants.com](mailto: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):**

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**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.)*

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## 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:**

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**Describe any recent momentum or wins that demonstrate community progress:**

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## 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.**

### **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).**



# 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

