

# 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 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?

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### ***B.) Program Relevance***

**Explain how participation in SCl 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

