

## Capital Improvement Plan

### Example

#### *What is a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)?*

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a strategic mid-term plan usually 4 to 10 years in scope that addresses the needs for a unit of government's capital needs. This is not limited to simply the capital projects for that government, but also includes necessary funding and studies needed to meet the needs of their community. Having a CIP prioritizes projects, reflects the values of a community, and gives outside stakeholders an honest look at the future of the community.

The attributes of an excellent Capital Improvement Plan are:

- **A list of all capital projects, equipment, and major studies-** Taking an inventory of what you have to do, what you need, and how to implement them is important to showing that your government has the capacity and ability to be good steward of taxpayers dollars
- **Ranking of priorities and justifications-** Having a ranking system that sorts needs and wants in your community on projects in important to showing your communities values. Also, it imperative to justifications for the scope and cost of the work.
- **Dedicated Financing for all phases of work-** A good CIP shows how a unit of government plans to initially pay for and then maintain capital improvement and maximize taxpayer value.
- **Timelines-** All projects and studies should have timelines made available to the public.
- **Strategic classification, itemization and explanations of projects-** Showing taxpayers, stakeholders, and the public there is a strategic vision by providing as much salient information as possible is the bedrock of a good CIP.

#### *Why is a CIP a part of the RISE certification?*

The CIP is essential in understanding if your community is committed to raising infrastructures standards of excellence. You show that with a strategic and well-formed CIP that your community values its taxpayers, quality infrastructure, and the people needed to implement such a plan. A Capital Improvement Plan shows a government is striving for excellence in what they provide to the community.

#### *How is this scored in the RISE certification?*

The CIP is scored out of 20 points of the 100 possible in the certification rubric. There are four categories each scored at 5 points they are-

- Realistic timelines, priorities, goals
- Itemization of projects and studies
- Strategic and sustainable funding
- Equitable funding across needs