



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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## PLANNER POOL PROGRAM: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planner Pool Program was designed as way to help these communities manage their day-to-day activities so that – as a region – we can grow better as we grow bigger and aims to provide communities with direct professional assistance to support local planning functions, such as discretionary and ministerial reviews, and miscellaneous short-term projects or research related to land use, development, sustainability, or transportation.

MORPC is a voluntary association of local government communities in the 15-county Central Ohio area. Our organization strives to enhance the quality of life and competitive advantages of Central Ohio by working through local governments and other constituents. A catalyst for change, evidence of MORPC's work is seen every day through planning, programming and services in the areas of housing, transportation, water, land use, economic development, environment, public policy and technology. We assist our local government members by providing innovative solutions for the many challenges facing our growing region.


The following is a list of frequently asked questions. If you cannot locate an answer to a question you may have, please contact [jmiller@morpc.org](mailto:jmiller@morpc.org).

***This document will be updated as new questions are received.***

*Updated: September 1, 2023*

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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*\*Updated: September 1, 2023*

**1. WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PLANNER POOL PROGRAM?**

Eligible projects include assistance with the reviews and permitting processes for both discretionary and ministerial (administrative) applications, including development and variance reviews, zoning and conditional use permitting, zoning text amendment reviews, etc. The Planner Pool Program may also be able to assist with smaller-scale research projects like guidance or best practices documentation on a variety of topics that may fall under urban planning, sustainability, or transportation. In an effort to keep assistance as flexible as possible, there is not a clearly defined list of eligible projects. As such, assistance may or may not be able to be provided based on the specifics of the request.

**2. HOW DO I CHECK TO SEE IF MY COMMUNITY'S ASSISTANCE NEEDS ARE ELIGIBLE?**

If a community is unsure about whether or not a particular project or task is eligible for the Planner Pool Program, we encourage them to fill out the assistance application anyways. MORPC Staff will follow-up with all submitted requests for assistance to learn about the particular needs of the community. Even if the initial request is not eligible, there may be another way we can provide assistance to help the community reach their desired goals.

**3. IS THERE A COST ASSOCIATED WITH THE PLANNER POOL PROGRAM?**

Assistance through the Planner Pool Program is provided at cost; an hourly rate commensurate with the level of experience needed. Experience levels are divided into four bins, and are outlined below:

STAFFING LEVEL	HOURLY RATE
PLANNER	\$85.00
ADVANCED PLANNER	\$100.00
SENIOR LEVEL PLANNER	\$130.00
DATA & MAPPING STAFF	\$135.00

**4. DOES THE PLANNER POOL PROGRAM PROVIDE FUNDING ASSISTANCE?**

The Planner Pool does not currently provide funding assistance to communities, though MORPC is currently investigating ways to provide reduce costs for communities who may be in need of additional assistance.

**5. CAN THE PLANNER POOL PROGRAM PROVIDE FULL-TIME ASSISTANCE?**

The Planner Pool Program was not designed to provide full-time assistance to one community. In order to provide as much assistance to as many communities as possible, the Program currently limits assistance to a part-time basis; typically not to exceed twenty (20) hours per week.

**6. HOW LONG CAN A COMMUNITY REQUEST TO HAVE ASSISTANCE?**

The duration of requested assistance may vary depending on the circumstances which led to the community's need. Typically, the Planner Pool Program will attempt to limit the extent of any request to 12 weeks or less. However, this time frame may be shortened depending on the outstanding requests for assistance at that time, and the degree to which a consultant may be able to better assist through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process.