

2015 Application Process and Selection Criteria Overview

* Applications are disseminated to mayors of all eligible municipalities in Alabama (cities between 2,000 and 18,000 in population).
* The application form consists of questions designed to determine a community’s commitment and capacity to support ACE. Information is requested about: community planning, organization for community and economic development, leadership development, education, infrastructure, health care, and quality of life. The application will also require letters of support from local leaders (local governing body, chamber of commerce, and other community organizations).
* The ACE Selection Committee reviews each application and selects communities as candidates for participation.
* The ACE Board of Directors reviews candidate communities and approves/disapproves as participants in ACE. Communities not selected will be notified and receive appropriate feedback on their application.
* Selection decisions will be guided by the criteria of commitment and capacity, but will entail some subjectivity. Consideration will be given to issues such as serving diverse populations and ensuring regional balance.
* The number of communities selected for ACE participation is based on available resources.
* Applications may be submitted on-line (preferred method) <http://www.alabamacommunitiesofexcellence.com/apply/>, OR via mail. ALL applications must be received or postmarked by: Friday, March 6, 2015 see instructions on application form. Please TYPE inside the “gray” boxes and click on the “yes”/”no” boxes – Save your final document as a .PDF file.
* The application process is extremely competitive, to be considered, applications MUST be completed in its entirety with ALL attachments included in .PDF format ONLY.

**SUBMIT BY: FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2015 (must be postmarked by 3/6/15)**

**PREFERRED METHOD is via on-line submission:**

<http://www.alabamacommunitiesofexcellence.com/apply/>

**OR Mail to the address below. All applications must be postmarked by March 6, 2015:**

Alabama Communities of Excellence

1854 Lake Ridge Road

Birmingham, AL 35216

Please direct questions to:

Sidney Hoover: SidneyHoover@outlook.com – (205) 567-3248

**Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE)**

2015 Community Application And Information Form

COMMUNITY NAME:

The Alabama Communities of Excellence selection committee will use the information provided below to help determine which communities will participate in the ACE program. Community **capacity** and **commitment** are essential in the selection process. Communities not selected will be provided with feedback and recommendations to become a stronger candidate for selection in future years.

**Please respond to each of the requested information items.**

**Contact Information**

Name of Community:

Name of Mayor:
Mailing Address:

City:       Zip:
Phone:       Fax:

Email:

Name of additional contact person:

Title:

Mailing Address:

City:       Zip:

Phone:       Fax:

Email:

**Community Name:**

**Community Information and Governance**

1. What is the community’s current population?

 What is the community’s website address?

2. Does your community have:

An active planning commission? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

 If yes, how many members?

 If yes, how are members selected?

Have members completed training provided by the American Planning Association-Alabama Chapter?
 [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

3. Has your community adopted a comprehensive plan (active document with long range goals and objectives) for all activities that affect growth and development in the community; serves as a guide for decisions on public and private developmental proposals and for the budgeting of public money?
[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

**Please attach a copy of the comprehensive plan (PDF format ONLY).**

 When was the plan adopted? (Year)

4. Has your community adopted local zoning ordinances? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

If yes, is the zoning ordinance actively enforced? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Somewhat

5. Does your community have infrastructure development plans or policies (such as plans or policies related to public utility improvements; road, bridge, water, sewer, telecommunication, or other infrastructure projects)?
[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

**Planning & Leadership**

1. Does your community have a strategic plan? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

**Please attach a copy of strategic plan (PDF format ONLY).**

2a. Is there an active/on-going leadership development program in your community?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

If yes, is the program based in [ ]  your community or [ ]  county-wide?

2b. Are minority groups actively recruited to participate in leadership programs and other community organizations? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

3. Briefly describe your community’s strengths:

4. Briefly describe the primary challenges to the success and growth of your community:

5. Is your community currently engaged in any projects with other local governments in your region (county government or other municipalities)? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

Briefly describe the projects or activities:

**Industrial Recruiting and Business Development**

1. Is your community actively involved in industrial development?

 [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

If yes, please specify the type(s) of activities:

[ ]  Industry recruitment [ ]  Assist existing industry [ ]  Downtown development

[ ]  Other activities (please describe):

2. Do you provide any incentives for businesses and industry? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

Briefly describe these incentives or services (grants, land, technical assistance, etc.):

3. Is there an active Industrial Development Board in your community? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

4a. Does your community feature at least one dedicated, fully prepared industrial park with appropriate improvements (utilities, roads, etc.)? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

Are industrial park(s) listed with state level recruiting agencies? (Alabama Department of Commerce, EDPA, utilities) [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

Briefly describe the park(s): (Limit of 75 words):

4b. Does your community have available buildings (public or private) for new business and industry?

 [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

Briefly describe the most significant building(s):

5. Does your community have a Chamber of Commerce? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

If yes, does the chamber have a [ ]  Full-Time Staff Member [ ]  Part-Time Staff Member

Provide contact information for chamber staff: (Name, Title, Address, Phone, E-mail):

6. List organizations involved in Economic and Community Development:

7. List the major businesses, industries and employers in your community:

**Quality of Life**

1. Does your community have the following:

Healthcare facility [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

Library [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

Parks and Recreation Program [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

Senior Citizens Programs [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

Youth Programs [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

Others: List:

2. Please attach a copy of the State Department of Education’s most recent report card for the

public schools in your community. (**Attach in PDF Format ONLY**)

3. Please describe any special programs or services available at the schools in your community (for example: local education foundations to assist schools, extended day care programs training and workforce development programs with higher education and industry, etc.):

4a. Does your community have a housing development authority? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No
Name of Organization:

4b. What is your rate of home ownership (versus rental)?

5a. Does your community have a local heritage group? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

Name of Organization:

5b. Has your community documented the city’s historic properties? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

6. Does your community actively promote tourism? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

7. Does your community have an active retiree attraction program? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

 **Concluding Documentation**

Why should your community be selected to participate in the ACE program (Limit 350 words)?

**CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTATION to attach in .PDF format ONLY**

[ ]  **Resolution from City Council for participation in ACE**

[ ]  **Letters of support for community participation in ACE (Chamber of Commerce, major businesses, civic groups, etc.)**

[ ]  **Comprehensive Plan (if applicable)**

[ ]  **Strategic Plan (if applicable)**

[ ]  **State Department of Education’s “most recent” report card for the public schools in your community**

**Community Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Mayor

Mayor’s Name:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Person Completing Application

Name of Person Completing Application:

Title of Person Completing Form:

Telephone Number of Person Completing Form (include zip code):

E-mail Address of Person Completing Form:

**SUBMIT BY Friday, MARCH 6, 2015**

**PREFERRED METHOD is via on-line submission:**

<http://www.alabamacommunitiesofexcellence.com/apply/>

**OR SUBMIT VIA MAIL (all applications must be received or postmarked by: Friday, MARCH 6, 2015)**

**MAIL TO:**Alabama Communities of Excellence

1854 Lake Ridge Road

Birmingham, AL 35216

Direct questions to:

Sidney Hoover: SidneyHoover@outlook.com (205) 567-3248.