



CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a grand, white, classical-style building, likely a state capitol, featuring a large dome and a portico with tall columns. The sky is a clear, bright blue. A large white diagonal shape overlaps the bottom right portion of the image, serving as a background for the text.

Healthy Housing City Leaders' Forum

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Invitation to Apply

Healthy Housing City Leaders' Forum

Goal: To help city leaders advance effective healthy housing policies, programs and practices that protect residents from the hazards posed by asthma and lead.

Who Should Apply?

Cities who meet the following criteria should consider applying to participate in this new NLC initiative:

- Is your city seeking to build and strengthen efforts to address health hazards in housing, such as lead and asthma triggers?
- Can your city benefit from a thorough effort to advance healthy housing policies, practices and programs through strong engagement with leaders from other cities?
- Does your city need stronger collaboration with local residents, community development organizations, health stakeholders and other partners to support these healthy housing efforts?
- Is there a leadership commitment to improve housing policies and their connection to health outcomes?

If the answers to the above questions are yes, your city is strongly encouraged to apply for this important opportunity. City teams will benefit from peer sharing, guidance and advice from national, state and local experts on a range of issues associated with healthy housing.

The Opportunity

The National League of Cities (NLC), through its Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute), and with the generous support of The JPB Foundation, invites city leaders and their teams to participate in an 18-month technical assistance initiative on improving housing quality and health. NLC will support cities in implementing existing policies, programs, and practices in this field. City teams will participate in peer-learning sessions and receive intensive technical assistance from NLC staff and subject matter experts to develop and implement local action plans. The initiative's first peer-to-peer workshop will include dialogue and discussion with participating city teams and leading experts to develop and/or augment effective policies, programs and practices. City teams will explore ways to align local efforts with national and state policies and examine promising practices and strategies that engage housing organizations, community groups, hospital and health systems and anchor institutions. At the end of the 18-month initiative, city teams will reconvene to share key lessons learned from action plan implementation and next steps.

Impetus for Action

Where we live impacts how well we live. Many American homes contain lead

paint, asthma triggers (e.g., mold) and other hazards. Children and the elderly are particularly at risk of experiencing health complications as a result of substandard housing. One in three homes in the U.S. has lead paint, and nearly half of all U.S. homes have elevated levels of at least three asthma-related allergens. Up to 40 percent of childhood asthma cases may be attributable to substandard housing conditions, with consequences that include higher rates of school absenteeism and shorter life expectancy.

In response to these threats to residents' health, cities across the country are implementing policies, programs and practices that address health hazards in housing. City leaders are well-positioned to improve housing quality in their communities, ensuring that all residents have a home in which they can thrive.

Benefits to Cities that Participate in the Healthy Housing City Leaders' Forum

NLC's technical assistance model stimulates and supports city-level progress by fostering a rich exchange of ideas among municipal leaders, city and county staff and/or partners, prominent researchers, practitioners and other national experts. While the primary focus is on support for city teams to advance their local efforts, lessons emerging from the effort will also inform future efforts by NLC and its national partners to address healthy housing throughout the nation. NLC staff will work with selected teams to build an effective action plan that frames local challenges and opportunities to address healthy housing. City Teams will benefit from opportunities to:

- *Share Best Practices and Lessons Learned:* Throughout the initiative, participants, peers and expert faculty will share best practices, lessons learned, and practical support and advice on locally defined challenges.
- *Leverage Recent Research and Innovations:* NLC's technical assistance will highlight emerging examples, based on the latest research and review of innovative models, of how other cities are working to address health hazards in housing. NLC staff will support city teams in adopting policies, programs and practices developed in other cities.
- *Develop and Implement an Action Plan:* Drawing on local context and opportunities as well as models from other cities, city teams will engage community partners in the development of detailed action plans to reduce health hazards in residential housing within their cities. Each action plan will include a timeline, specific roles/assignments, measurement tools and a description of what success would look like.
- *Learn from Philanthropic Leaders and National Experts:* City teams will be joined by leaders and experts from the nation's leading foundations and nonprofit organizations to hear from them about innovations they are supporting.

Applying to Participate in the Healthy Housing City Leaders' Forum

Up to six cities will be selected to participate in this technical assistance initiative. Cities who are interested should submit a narrative application to NLC by

August 9th. The narrative should respond to the following prompts and questions within the specified word limits for each section. The overall narrative is capped at 1,500 words.

Current Landscape (500 words or less)

Local Context

- What is your primary target population, and why? Include key facts/data about the city (population, demographics) and evidence of the need for progress on healthy and hazard-free homes. Charts, maps, or other visuals may be included as an addendum.
- Is there local funding to support this work?
- What local partners have you engaged or plan to engage in this work?
- What are major obstacles to healthy housing work in your city?

State Context

- What is the local-state relationship around housing/hazards-related issues? Please list any major funding streams, initiatives, or barriers at the state level that are likely to help or hinder your city's efforts

Federal Context

- Please list any federal funding streams or other considerations that help or hinder local efforts.

City Efforts to Date (500 words or less)

- Briefly describe key strategies and mechanisms that have been successful and/or helped spur change.
- What indicators have been established to track and measure progress on achieving desired results? What data are being collected and analyzed as part of this effort?
- Have you taken specific steps to address equity issues in this work?
- Does your work include innovative efforts in areas such as civic engagement, data, financing, multi-sector collaboration and sustainability?
- Please describe the role of your city's leadership, such as the mayor or city manager, in leading efforts to improve systems around health and/or housing.

Desired Goals/Results (300 words or less)

- What specific outcomes does your city team want to see as a result from participating in the initiative? Does the city have both a short- and a long-term goal?
- Why does your team feel that this is the right time to further address healthy housing – is there a specific opportunity upon which you are seeking to capitalize?
- What do you hope to learn from the initiative and how would you apply it?

City Team Composition

- Please identify a team lead to serve as the primary contact and resource for NLC and other participating cities. Please also include the names and titles of 3-5 additional team members from key city agencies or community partners, who will attend the cohort convenings and be strongly engaged in the city's efforts. Strong teams will include leaders from the city's housing, health and neighborhood and economic development agencies, as

well as a community partner such as a community development financial institution (CDFI). (Note: NLC will cover travel expenses for up to three city team members. Up to two additional team members are welcome to participate at the city's expense.)

- While the personal participation of the mayor is not required, a letter of support from the Mayor's or City Manager's office must be submitted with your application.
- Please provide 3 time slots for a phone interview with your team lead and the Mayor or City Manager. Interviews will take place between August 9 and September 6.

Gaps and Opportunities?

Please numerically rate the level of the city's current need for support in each of the areas below (score 1 for highest need and 9 for lowest need).

	Research and data
	Communications
	Expanded partnerships (state, federal, & local) / engagement with additional stakeholders
	Education of or outreach to policy and decision makers
	Financing strategies
	Attention to equity issues
	Sustainability of current initiatives
	Community engagement
	Best practices and relevant examples from other cities

How to Apply

Key 2019 Dates:

August 9	Deadline for submission of city's application to li@nlc.org
August 9	Interviews of applicants begin
September 6	Interviews of applicants conclude
September 13	Notification of cities regarding selection decisions
Week of December 9	First peer-to-peer workshop in Charlotte, NC – <i>save the date!</i>

Questions? Please contact the following staff:

- Sue Pechilio Polis, Director, Health & Wellness, IYEF: polis@nlc.org
- Anthony Santiago, Senior Fellow, Membership and Partnerships, IYEF: Santiago@nlc.org
- Anne Li, Healthy Housing Associate, IYEF: li@nlc.org