

Eviction Prevention Learning Lab

APPLICATION DUE 11:59 PM ET FEBRUARY 26, 2021

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

[The Eviction Prevention Learning Lab \(EPLL\)](#) is a nationwide peer-to-peer network for cities and their partners to gain exposure to best practices, policies, and tools to prevent evictions. By providing capacity building, human-centered problem-solving work sessions, and opportunities for shared learning, this network will help cities develop and refine equitable interventions that prevent evictions.

With quarterly Learning Lab Meetings that engage experts and organizations working in the field, access to a shared resource hub, and opportunities for cross-city collaboration or hands-on work sessions, the EPLL will seek to equip cities and their partners with the tools they need to better address local evictions.

Lessons learned from this network will include how to operationalize racial equity in an eviction mitigation strategy; how to facilitate or strengthen relationships with tenants, landlords, courts and community stakeholders; and how to utilize data for developing actionable policy recommendations.

Growing out of work that the National League of Cities and the [Stanford Legal Design Lab](#) undertook in 2020 with the inaugural [Eviction Prevention Cohort](#), the EPLL is open to all cities, with a special invitation to those seeking to confront racial disparities and to build knowledge across agencies and community partners.



**[Apply to participate](#) in the
Eviction Prevention Learning
Lab by February 26, 2021!**

BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPATING CITIES & PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Cities and their local partner organizations can expect to receive a range of benefits and support through their involvement in the Learning Lab, including:

- Peer-to-peer exchange with other cities in the Eviction Prevention Learning Lab.
- Interactive virtual programming with subject matter experts through quarterly Learning Lab Meetings.
- Periodic one-on-one or small-group workshops and check-in calls to discuss or collaborate around eviction prevention tactics, strategies or challenges.
- Timely and relevant information about eviction during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Access to NLC resources and tools through a resource hub and newsletter.
- Local and state policy recommendations to identify targeted opportunities and pathways for reducing eviction rates.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Cities interested in joining the Eviction Prevention Learning Lab should be prepared to do the following:

- Commit to at least one (1) eviction prevention goal for the next 18 months.
- Identify at least two (2) city staff members to serve as lead participants for the city's involvement, with additional participation from across city departments, agencies, and local community partner organizations highly encouraged.
- Be an active participant in quarterly virtual programming and online resource-sharing.
- Apply lessons from the Eviction Prevention Learning Lab to your local context.
- Identify, address, and remove racial disparities in your current eviction prevention strategy.
- Commit to creating an equitable eviction prevention strategy that supports both renters and landlords.
- Complete an initial onboarding survey, periodic progress reports and a final feedback survey at the conclusion of the program.

EVICTON PREVENTION LEARNING LAB COMMITMENT GOALS

Participating cities will select at least one (1) but up to two (2) eviction prevention goal(s) from the list below that it will commit to pursuing over the next 18 months.

- **Data:** Commit to developing or refining your city's eviction data collection and analysis process.
- **Communication, Outreach and Engagement:** Commit to developing or refining your city's communication, outreach and engagement to both tenant and landlords.
- **Diversion Strategy:** Commit to developing or refining your city's eviction diversion strategy to address evictions before an order is filled, during court proceedings, or after a household has been displaced.
- **Eviction Mediation:** Commit to developing or refining your city's eviction mediation program.
- **Landlord and Tenant Education:** Commit to developing or refining your city's landlord and tenant education program and strategy.
- **Financial, Legal and Social Services:** Commit to developing or refining your city's rental assistance, legal assistance or social service programming to better support renters and landlords.
- **Courts Support:** Commit to developing, refining or strengthening relationships with your local courts system and court officials.
- **Housing Affordability and Stability:** Commit to developing or refining interventions that can address housing affordability challenges renters are facing.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM EVICTION PREVENTION LEARNING LAB PROGRAMMING

Participating cities should plan to actively take part in quarterly Learning Lab Meetings. These video calls will engage all members of the Learning Lab on topics directly related to the eviction prevention goals, and will often feature presentations from cities or outside subject matter experts.

These quarterly meetings will be supplemented with targeted optional sessions or hands-on workshops, specific to individual prevention goals or to meet the need of a group of cities tackling similar issues. Additional resources or tools will be shared on an ongoing basis and participants will have the ability to raise questions, communicating directly with other participating cities and program coordinators.

18-MONTH CALENDAR FOR QUARTERLY LEARNING LAB MEETINGS

- Wednesday, March 24, 2021*
- Wednesday, March 31, 2021
- Wednesday, June 23, 2021
- Wednesday, September 22, 2021
- Wednesday, December 1, 2021
- Wednesday, March 23, 2022
- Wednesday, June 22, 2022
- Wednesday, September 21, 2022

* Mandatory orientation

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Is your city seeking to develop a just, fair and equitable eviction strategy that responds not only to the immediate needs of your community, but that also looks to address the root causes of your local eviction crisis?
- Could your city benefit from peer-to-peer exchanges and dialogues with subject matter experts about evictions and how communities are working to tackle the eviction crisis exacerbated by COVID-19?
- Is your city looking to strengthen relationships with tenants, landlords and the courts?
- Could your city better leverage resources and assets at the local, state and federal level to ensure sustainable progress on evictions?
- Is your city open exploring new ideas and strategies while also sharing about its own challenges, approaches and lessons learned?

IF THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS ARE YES, YOUR CITY IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY!

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Commitment to embedding and operationalizing racial equity in your local eviction mitigation strategy.
- Identify and submit at least two (2) city staff members to serve as the lead participants for your city in the Eviction Prevention Learning Lab. The Lead participants will serve as the primary points of contact for your city's team.

- The lead participants are encouraged to invite additional city staff members and external stakeholders or partners to participate in virtual programming on an ongoing basis. The Learning Lab can complement work being done through an existing city taskforce focused on eviction, or can serve as a spark for developing such an internal workgroup.
- Select one (1) or two (2) goal(s) to focus on over the course of the EPLL.
- Additional goals can be adopted or pursued by the city as its eviction landscape changes over the next 18 months, but these core goals will be the foundation of the city's involvement.
- Commitment by the two (2) lead participants to actively participate in and contribute to ongoing Learning Lab programming.
- Complete the initial onboarding survey prior to the Eviction Prevention Learning Lab's mandatory orientation on March 24, 2021.

Note: Cities are not required to be members of the National League of Cities in order to participate in the EPLL. Municipalities of all sizes are encouraged to apply!

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants interested in participating in the Eviction Prevention Learning Lab should seek to demonstrate the following:

- Commitment to actively addressing evictions in your city, either by building on and refining existing strategies, launching new programs, or exploring other policy innovations.
- Commitment to identifying and addressing racial disparities that many exist in your city's current eviction prevention strategies and to embedding racial equity in the city's approach moving forward.
- Dedication to actively participating in EPLL programming, including quarterly Learning Lab Meetings and select one-on-one or small-group workshops.
- Connectedness to the community and the larger anti-eviction stakeholder group in your city, such as by engaging community partners or nonprofits in this work.
- Open-mindedness to exploring new ideas, eagerness to share about your city's eviction landscape and strategies, and willingness to be challenged about your city's current approach.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS	January 19, 2021
APPLICATIONS DUE	February 26, 2021
NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE	March 12, 2021
VIRTUAL ORIENTATION MEETING	March 24, 2021

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the Eviction Prevention Learning Lab or the application process, please review the FAQs or contact the team at EPLL@nlc.org.

APPLY TODAY