

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES – INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH, EDUCATION,  
AND FAMILIES’ CITY COHORT INITIATIVE:

# Community of Practice for Healthy Housing Equity

## GOAL

To convene and support city leaders to advance equitable housing programs and practices that improve individual and community health and wellbeing, by addressing lead and asthma triggers in housing.

*Distinct from the Local Action Challenge (LAC), the Community of Practice is a guided opportunity to address healthy housing with the active support of NLC and a cohort of peer cities. Work completed through the Community of Practice also qualifies to be submitted to the LAC.*



### Letters of

#### Interest Due:

August 26, 2022

#### Proposal Due:

September 9, 2022, through  
the online application form.

### Selection

#### Announcement:

October 2022

#### Project Dates:

October 2022 – October 2023  
(Specific timeframe is subject  
to change).

### Submission

#### Information:

Please submit your application  
through the online form.

**Questions?** Contact the Health & Wellness team at  
[healthyhousing@nlc.org](mailto:healthyhousing@nlc.org)

## THE OPPORTUNITY

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- ◆ Strengthen local housing policies, programs, and practices to improve housing environments with a focus on lead and asthma triggers
- ◆ Leverage new federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to address longstanding housing quality needs and health disparities
- ◆ Apply data and evidence to tailor housing interventions to communities at greatest risk of health impacts to improve community resilience
- ◆ Leverage city assets and resources in partnership with health systems, public health, community-based organizations, public housing agencies, tenant groups, local foundations, businesses, and other partners to improve housing quality and access
- ◆ Align governmental agencies and assets to improve housing and health services to ensure all resources are fully leveraged
- ◆ Improve governance structures, processes, and policies to effectively bridge across silos for sustained improvement to community health equity

## IMPETUS FOR ACTION AND THE ROLE OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP

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Far too many children suffer the long-term impacts of unhealthy housing. Lead exposure in home environments contributes to lifelong cognitive challenges. At the same time, asthma triggers disrupt learning and work for millions of vulnerable families nationwide. As lead and asthma impacts continue to drive repeat hospital admissions, the long-term costs ripple across education, economic opportunity, and other systems while reducing the quality and length of life for individuals and communities. City leaders are currently well-positioned to tackle these challenges as investments through HUD, ARPA, and the BIL are providing greater resources to improve health and racial equity.

## CITY PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT

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NLC will provide city-centered and context-specific technical assistance within a Community of Practice in which cities are connected by shared goals, building on the Healthy Housing Local Action Challenge and Framework. Up to 12 cities will be convened to take on deeper work on healthy housing policies, programs, and practices to improve individual and community outcomes. The Community of Practice will launch with an emphasis on data to guide city leaders to identify indicators to address housing and health disparities in their respective communities. NLC staff and subject matter experts will provide a high level of city-centered technical assistance to develop and implement local action plans over the 12-month project period.

Support provided to selected sites will include:

- ◆ Peer exchange with the other cities in the Community of Practice through bi-monthly group events and small-group technical assistance determined by shared goals and mutual interests
- ◆ Action planning supported by the Healthy Housing Action Challenge Framework
- ◆ Data support from mySidewalk to map housing and health disparities
- ◆ Technical assistance and turn-key support including from partner organizations and subject matter experts
- ◆ Dissemination and communication of your city's work across the NLC network and with partner organizations

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- ◆ Is your mayor/city seeking to address asthma and lead in housing?
- ◆ Could your city benefit from peer-to-peer, expert-informed dialogue focused on ensuring all children and families have healthy, stable housing?
- ◆ Could your city benefit from better leveraging resources and assets at the federal level and within your state and community to improve housing quality and access?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, this opportunity is for you.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ Demonstrated commitment by the mayor and/or city manager to address housing and health challenges
- ◆ Commitment by the local project team to participate in all efforts developed through the Healthy & Equitable Housing Community of Practice
- ◆ Readiness and commitment to assemble an effective core team that includes a combination of top city executives (mayor, city manager) and/or cabinet-level city staff and senior departmental staff, local health systems, community representatives, and leaders from other key partner organizations

## KEY DATES FOR POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

What?	When?	Where?
Deadline for Letters of Interest ( <i>encouraged but not required</i> ) from the Mayor or City Manager	August 26, 2022	Submit to <a href="mailto:healthyhousing@nlc.org">healthyhousing@nlc.org</a>
Deadline for Applications from Interested Cities	September 9, 2022	Submit <a href="#">online</a>
Interviews of Finalist Cities (Tentative)	September – October, 2022	TBA
Selection of Cities	October, 2022	
Welcome Call/ Orientation	October, 2022	Virtual

## PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Up to twelve cities will be selected for this project. Only one application per municipality will be considered and must be submitted with the full support of the mayor and/or city manager. ***Interested applicants are encouraged to submit a letter of interest from their Mayor or City Manager by August 26, 2022***, and submit an online application ***by September 9, 2022***. The narrative should respond to the following prompts and questions:

### Mayor/City Manager Availability & Support:

1. Describe the initial goal(s) for your city's engagement in this Community of Practice for Healthy Housing Equity. Does your application have the support of your city's top executive (mayor or city manager)?

### Team Composition:

2. Describe the team who will work on this initiative, including each organizational affiliation and position (name and title, organization/city department, city, and contact email).
3. What is the population of your community?
  - Below 50,000
  - 50,000-100,000
  - 100,000- 250,000
  - 250,000-500,000
  - Above 500,000
4. Geography type
  - Rural
  - Urban
  - Suburban
  - Other

### Housing and Health:

*This section intends to understand how your municipality is approaching program development, engagement, and evaluation of housing and health equity.*

5. Briefly describe key strategies and mechanisms that have been effective in addressing housing and health outcomes in your community
6. How has your city allocated your ARPA and BIL funds? Are there plans to use these funding streams or new HUD funding sources to address healthy housing?
7. What indicators have been established to track and measure progress on healthy housing? What data are being collected and analyzed as part of this effort?

## Improving Community Health & Resilience Through the Arts

8. Describe how your city is centering health and racial equity in your housing and health work. How is the resident voice included?
9. Describe any barriers you may have encountered as you considered addressing or have attempted to address healthy housing.

### **Coalitions and Partners:**

*This section seeks to understand how your municipality is working with other public, private, and community organizations to advance housing and health equity.*

10. Is your city part of a local coalition of organizations working on healthy housing? What partners have you worked with in this space? Examples include health systems, tenant groups, schools, and community development organizations.

## **QUESTIONS**

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For questions about this initiative, please contact the Health & Wellness team at [healthyhousing@nlc.org](mailto:healthyhousing@nlc.org). Thank you.