

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

Mayors’ Institute on Advancing Community Revitalization to Improve Health & Equity

GOAL

Engage Mayors and their teams in transforming neighborhoods and revitalizing communities to improve health and equity through infrastructure, planning, zoning, and the built environment.



**Letters of
Interest Due:**

October 21, 2022

**Proposal
Due:**

November 4, 2022, through
the online application form.

**Selection
Announcement:**

January 2023

Project Dates:

January 2023 – February
2024 (*Specific timeframe is
subject to change*).

**Submission
Information:**

Please submit your application
through the online form.

Questions?

Contact the Cities of Opportunity
at CoO@nlc.org subject line
“Mayors’ Institute”

THE OPPORTUNITY

The National League of Cities (NLC), through its Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute) invites mayors from across the country to participate in the **2023 Mayors' Institute on Advancing Community Revitalization to Improve Health & Equity**.

The 2023 Mayors' Institute is an exclusive opportunity for six mayors and their teams to leverage unprecedented federal resources to transform and revitalize neighborhoods and communities to improve health and equity through infrastructure, planning, zoning, and the built environment. Mayors and city teams will delve into equitable community revitalization to understand and address how infrastructure and built environment shape health inequities. Participating cities will be supported by expert-informed dialogue, recent research, and innovations, peer-to-peer learning, and tailored one-on-one technical assistance.

Mayors and their teams will journey together over 12 months building their capacity to use data, civic engagement, and partnership to inform and advance efforts that also address health and equity. Ultimately, city teams will work in tandem to develop action plans that position their cities to take advantage of 'once in a generation federal resources from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

IMPETUS FOR ACTION AND THE ROLE OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Health disparities exist. In U.S. cities, from neighborhood to neighborhood, there are large and deep-rooted differences in residents' health, well-being, and life expectancy. The COVID-19 pandemic intensified these inequities, further widening the gap. At the same time, city leaders are also called upon to solve persistent

challenges that threaten community health and safety, from housing and transit to the need for greenspace and broadband. City staff capacity is strained to meet a multitude of new demands – all with implications for the health and well-being of its residents.

City Leaders are Catalysts for Change. Local government leaders have the power to bring about transformative changes, to put the community at the core of decision-making, and improve health disparities. Cities across the country are leading a diverse array of community revitalization efforts with initiatives designed to improve neighborhood conditions that foster equity and advance health. Unprecedented levels of federal funding, through ARPA and BIL, along with new ways to use data have created a window for action. Now is the time to explore innovative approaches and long-term solutions for addressing the inequities so that all city residents have fair and equitable access to opportunities for good health, well-being, and long lives

Pathway to health and equity. While city leaders have the will, they may need additional capacity, support, and sharing of best practices to make progress. The Mayors' Institute brings mayors and city teams together, along with national experts and resources, to support progress in community revitalization to ensure *all* residents have the opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

CITY PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT

The Mayor's Institute represents a unique yearlong opportunity to address and strengthen community revitalization efforts holistically. Its core event is the Mayors' Institute Convening – an in-person meeting that brings together mayors, city staff, and subject matter experts to discuss practical solutions. Participating mayors are required to attend and present at this event.

Successful participation requires:

- ◆ **A strong commitment by the mayor to address and strengthen efforts to community revitalization through more holistic approaches.**
- ◆ Ability to assemble a diverse city team that can provide leadership over the course of 12 months to ensure efforts aimed at comprehensive community revitalization are coordinated, with an emphasis on achieving stated goals. Suggested members include but are not limited to the mayor, chief policy lead, city planner, staff from transportation, public works, engineering, economic and community development, and health, along with partners from the business sector and community foundations.
- ◆ **Mayoral participation in the Mayors' Institute Convening in May 2023.**
- ◆ Commitment and the ability for city teams to participate in all aspects of the Mayors' Institute ***prior to and beyond the Convening***, through February 2024, including:
 - Participate in monthly work sessions, including individualized technical assistance sessions, issue-specific workshops, and all-team forums.
 - Develop and evolve an action roadmap and work plan that includes success measures and action steps around the goals the Mayor seeks to advance. (CoO program staff and partners to provide guidance).
 - Attend associated events immediately following the Mayors' Institute Convening, including site visit(s) and team planning sessions. (Mayors are welcome but not required to stay for the subsequent sessions).

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- ◆ Is your mayor/city seeking to build and strengthen strategies to revitalize communities and better connect neighborhoods?
- ◆ Could your city benefit from peer-to-peer and expert-informed dialogue to better align city planning, infrastructure, and the built environment?
- ◆ Are you interested in how to better use data, civic engagement, and partnerships to inform and advance efforts that also address health and equity?
- ◆ Could your city benefit by better leveraging resources and assets at the federal, state, and local levels to make progress on this issue?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, your city is strongly encouraged to apply for this important opportunity.

THE OUTCOMES

NLC will select up to six mayors, through a competitive process, to participate in the Mayors' Institute on Advancing Community Revitalization to Improve Health & Equity. Staff will work with selected mayors and their staff to:

- ◆ **Build an Opportunity Assessment to Develop an Action Roadmap and Workplan:** Each city team will assess current strengths, and work to develop an action roadmap that includes long-term and short-term success measures and practical work plans to advance efforts.
- ◆ **Elevate Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** The Mayors' Institute is grounded in sharing best practices and lessons learned across cities as peers, along with practical help and advice from participating city teams and expert faculty.
- ◆ **Leverage Recent Research and Innovations:** The Mayors' Institute will highlight emerging models and examples of how a variety of cities are working to align infrastructure, zoning, planning, and the built environment that considers health and equity.

◆ **Learn from Philanthropic Organizations Supporting Efforts to Spur Innovation:** We will be joined by leaders and experts from the nation's leading philanthropic foundations to hear from them about innovations they are supporting and trends they are looking at and addressing.

◆ **Facilitate Peer Learning:** Immediately following the Mayors' Institute, city teams will engage in hands-on learning experiences, including a site visit and relevant, timely discussions with peer cities and partners who are deploying a range of efforts to align infrastructure, zoning, planning, and design for equitable neighborhood revitalization.

◆ **Ensure Access to Additional Knowledge and Resources:** Following the conclusion of the Mayors' Institute, NLC staff and other partners, will continue to coach and connect participating cities to resources, including tools and access to experts to accelerate local progress and further promote shared learning.

◆ **Inform Future NLC Initiatives:** Through their work and contributions to this project, mayors and other leaders, will influence the focus and direction of future Cities of Opportunity efforts, in coordination with partner organizations, to spread and scale promising models, practices and policy approaches that are aimed at advancing community development and health.

KEY DATES FOR POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

What?	When?	Where?
Deadline for Letters of Interest	October 21, 2022	Send to CoO@nlc.org , subject line "Letter of Interest- Mayors' Institute (your City)"
Deadline for Applications from Interested Cities	November 4 2022	Application is online
Interview with Selected Cities	December 12-14, 2022, Please hold for a 1 hour interview	Virtual
Selection of Cities for the Mayors' Institute	January 2023	Selected cities will be notified by email
Mayors Only Welcome Call/ Orientation for Staff	January 2023	Virtual
Mayors' Institute Convening	May 2023	TBD
Site Visit(s) and/or hands-on learning	May 2023	TBD

PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Up to six cities will be selected for this Mayors' Institute. Mayors who are interested in participating should submit a letter of interest by October 21, 2022 (send to CoO@nlc.org subject line "Letter of Interest- Mayors' Institute (your city) and complete the online application by November 4, 2022. The online application will ask you to respond to the following prompts and questions:

Mayor Availability & Support:

1. Is the mayor available to participate in the Mayors' Institute in May 2023?

Team Composition:

2. Identify a city team that includes, but is not limited to the mayor, chief policy staff, city planner, department of transportation staff, department of public works staff, department of engineering staff, business sector partner, community foundation, and data analyst. (Note: NLC can cover travel costs for the mayor and two city team members for each participating city. Up to two additional team members are welcome to participate at their own or the city's expense.) Please specify the following for each participant:
 - a) Title
 - b) Organization or City Department
 - c) City
 - d) Pronoun
 - e) 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

Current City Efforts:

4. Briefly describe the city's interest and/or experience in planning, zoning, infrastructure, and the built environment, with a focus on efforts that target historically and currently marginalized communities with concentrated disparities.
5. What role has the Mayor played to advance policies, funding, partnerships (across city departments as well as with external stakeholders), practices, and/or programs to support city efforts? If applicable, what has the city learned and how have lessons changed local efforts?

6. List the key stakeholders in your city's efforts to address challenges related to equitable community development. (Also, consider the role of broader community stakeholders such as anchor institutions, health systems, community development corporations/community development financial institutions, community and/or state foundations, state and federal government agencies, key resident/neighborhood organizations, etc.)

Key Stakeholders Role in efforts/strategy Level of engagement (low, med, high)

7. What funding sources are being used to support the city's current efforts (e.g., city, state, federal, philanthropic, or private/corporate contributions)?
8. What key strategies and mechanisms has your city used that have been successful and/or helped spur change to advance comprehensive community development to advance health and equity?

Desired Goals/ Results:

9. What indicators have been established to track and measure progress on achieving desired results towards equitable community development? What data is being collected and analyzed as part of this effort?
10. Identify a key problem or challenge that the Mayor is working to address. Why does the Mayor feel that this is the right time to further address this issue? Is there a specific opportunity upon which the Mayor now seeks to capitalize (e.g., partnership, funding, cross-city agency alignment, city/state/federal legislation/policy/bond/levy, public will or demand, public understanding of need-based on recent events, etc.)?

Gaps and Areas of Opportunity:

11. From the list below, please identify areas in which your city has the greatest need for additional support (rate the level of need for each area by indicating whether the need is high, moderate, or low):
 - a) Research and data
 - b) Communications
 - c) Recruitment of additional stakeholders
 - d) Education of or outreach to policy and decision-makers
 - e) Financing strategies
 - f) Equity
 - g) Sustainability of initiatives over time
 - h) Community engagement
 - i) Best practices

QUESTIONS

For questions about this initiative, please contact the Cities of Opportunity team at CoO@nlc.org. Thank you.