<u>NLC Capstone Challenge Series 2023 - Member Form</u>

Program Overview

Thank you for your interest in applying to participate in the 2023 NLC Capstone Challenge Series. This program brings together NLC member cities and strategic partners to create solutions to member needs.

NLC's Capstone and Enterprise Partners have submitted applications outlining proposed projects, informed by their expertise and history of working with cities. Based on member interest, NLC will match member cities with a strategic partner to work together on these projects and develop a solution over the next six months.

Each working group will consist of one strategic partner, one municipality (or a small group of municipalities, if applicable), and one NLC staff member as a liaison and resource. Working groups will work on the project together throughout the summer and fall, concluding by early 2024. The Series will culminate with an event where the group with the best project will receive an award.

Please review the project ideas and rank them, with 1 indicating highest interest. You only need to rank those that you are interested in participating in – please do not assign a ranking to projects that you do not want to work on.

Application Information

In this application, you will have the opportunity to indicate interest in proposed projects from NLC Capstone and Enterprise partners. Members will be matched with projects based on fit and member and partner interest. Not all applicants will be matched.

If you would like to save your progress and return to complete the application later, you may utilize the "Save & Resume Later" feature located at the bottom of each application page. Clicking on this feature will take you to a page with a link to access your saved application at a later time. Please note that you will not be able to advance to the next page of the application until all required fields have been completed.

This form is due April 28th at 5 PM ET.

If you have any questions or technical difficulties, please reach out to Annie Osborne at sponsorships@nlc.org.

Commitment

To participate in this program, members should be prepared to commit to at least once-monthly meetings with working groups from June to late 2023, 8 hours+ of additional time each month working on the project, and a virtual or in-person in early 2024.

There is no financial cost to members to participate in this program. Partners will be providing their services pro bono for the duration of the program period. Please note that accepted members must commit to full participation in the entire program, identify a staff member to serve as the project lead, and be prepared to engage with NLC staff and partners before, during and after the program.

Are you prepared to commit to full participation in this program?

- Yes, now let's go to the application!

Page 1: General Information

1. Name
2. Email address
3. Phone number
4. Title
5. Municipality
6. Are you an NLC Member?
7. Why do you want to participate in this program?
8. What are your expectations for this program?

Page 2: Project Ideas

Please rank the below project ideas with 1 indicating the project that you would most like to participate in. There is space to enter your ranking at the bottom of the page. Only rank those that you are interested in, and do not assign a ranking to those that you do not want to participate in. For your top three projects, you will need to submit additional information about the team that would be working on the project as well as a letter of support from the Mayor or Chief Executive of your municipality.

- **Advance Road Safety in your City – GM Future Roads**

  In this project, the selected cities will partner with General Motors Future Roads to advance road safety in their community, through the use of Safety View, a tool built in a joint collaboration between GM Future Roads and INRIX. The tool allows cities to view areas of concern in their municipality with contextual, layered data sets, providing users with the ability to quickly assess factors that impact safety for drivers and vulnerable road users in their community. GM Future Roads will work with the city to understand their needs in terms of road safety – whether it is Vision Zero planning, specific initiatives for Complete Streets, Safe Streets for all planning support, creating safe bicycle paths, identifying problem intersections, etc. They will provide data,

training, and analysis to help the city complete its road safety project and help it to achieve its goals.

- **Understand and Address the Impacts of Redlining on Health – City Health Dashboard**

  In this project, City Health Dashboard will work with cities that have dealt with historic redlining to understand how it impacts modern-day health and economic disparities. The City Health Dashboard provides actionable measures of health and its economic and environmental drivers, all at the city and neighborhood level, to support cities in taking data-driven action. The 6-month project will consist of a series of collaborative mapping and consultation discussions, combining the Dashboard's mapping and data expertise with the city representatives' collective local knowledge. The goal is to help cities integrate historic redlining maps into their equity planning processes and create action plans for impactful and lasting local change for displaced populations and disinvested neighborhoods.

- **Plan and Finance Green Infrastructure – Upside Tech Alliance**

  In this project, cities will work with the Upside Tech Alliance to plan and finance green infrastructure in their community. The Upside Tech Alliance includes four purpose-driven companies that partner with local leaders to implement technology solutions that serve the public good and drive economic growth. Two of the companies in the Alliance – Aclima and Promise – are participating in this project. Aclima works with cities to map air quality and pollution, identifying hotspots and generating visualizations to help cities and residents understand the issue. Promise helps cities recoup revenue on unpaid water, wastewater, stormwater, and electric bills, as well as parking citations and toll debt, by utilizing accessible outreach methods and offering flexible payment options. Through this project, selected cities will work with Aclima to understand the nature of air pollution in their community and the needs in terms of green infrastructure, and they will work with Promise to bring much-needed revenue back to the city that can be invested into these infrastructure projects. The Alliance will also help plan for additional federal funding applications to support the development of green infrastructure.

- **Build a Strategic Equity Plan for Your City – Esri**

  We all want to live in a more equitable world. But what does that mean in practice with budgets to abide by, constituents to listen to, and limited time and resources? How do city leaders operationalize the thoughts and data they've collected to make a more equitable city? How do they make equity part of the city's day-to-day functions and business processes? Through this Capstone Project, selected cities will work with Esri to develop a strategic equity plan by understanding their community's equity needs, building location into their equity strategy, operationalizing their work and findings, and measuring impact in real-time. A strategic equity plan that includes GIS helps establish a city-wide strategy for achieving equity rather than relying on ad hoc, project-by-project or department-by-department results. Strategic equity plans built with location in mind allow cities to understand their community's needs better, identify opportunities to intervene and develop solutions that enact real change, and foster community involvement. As an end result, Esri will build a guidebook to assist all large and small cities as they build and update their strategic plans.

- **Using Data for Strategic Planning and Budgeting in Small Cities - Polco**

  In this project, Polco will work with a cohort of small cities (5,000 – 15,000 population) to strengthen overall resident engagement by identifying and prioritizing strategic focus areas and capital budget resource allocations. Polco will provide access to modules related to data, resident engagement, prioritization, and budgeting to help community leaders understand best practices for using this information to create strategic plans and Annual Capital Budgets. Polco will facilitate monthly conversations with the cohort to discuss local issues, share best practices and engagement strategies, and collaborate on how to integrate the sentiment data into strategic planning and budgeting processes. This cohort approach will also help to identify areas of common challenges, barriers, and opportunities.

- **Build Dashboards to Inform Affordable Housing Policies – Accela**

  In collaboration with the selected city, the Accela team will design and build new dashboards to monitor and inform Affordable Housing policies. Depending on the specific policies that the city wants to focus on, the project team would put key data into a visual dashboard to identify trends, recognize outliers, and track key performance indicators. Through these insights, the city would validate resource allocations or identify areas that need additional attention to achieve the city's strategic goals on affordable housing. For example, the project team could incorporate existing initiatives such as ADUs/Infill grants to isolate those programs' contributions to the city's larger goals.

  This Capstone Project is ideal for a city which uses Accela software in a Software as a Service (SaaS) configuration.

- **Implement a City Architect Advisory Board – American Institute of Architects**

  The American Institute of Architects (AIA) will provide a city with access to a group of architects, comprised of local AIA members, to offer advisory services related to the built environment. The city may request assistance from the advisory board on specific projects related to the built environment. If you are interested in this project, please provide some information on the types of projects you would like to pursue in your Letter of Support. Requests may range from recommendations for existing, historic rehabilitation projects, up to broad, conceptual reviews of a neighborhood to identify underutilized building sites. The advisory group will meet regularly with elected officials or their staff, and at the end of the project, the city may consider creating a formal Advisory Board or hiring a Chief Architect.

- **Pilot Drone Use for First Responders – BRINC Drones**

  In this project, BRINC Drones will work with law enforcement in the selected city to pilot the integration of drones into their search and rescue and first responder efforts. These drones are specialized for emergency response situations in which it is too dangerous to send a human in first and can be used for search and communicating inside buildings, clearing buildings, and defusing hostage and barricade situations. Through this project, the city would have access to the drones and technology and would work with BRINC to help create a better understanding of

critical use cases, relevant policy for safe use within diverse communities, and improve the technology available to first responders.

- **Co-Create Climate Metrics to Support Sustainability Planning – City Health Dashboard**

  This project pairs the City Health Dashboard team with cities ready to take action on climate and will co-create metrics that can help cities support those efforts. The City Health Dashboard provides actionable measures of health and its economic and environmental drivers, all at the city and neighborhood level, to support cities in taking data-driven action. The 6-month project will consist of a series of co-creation events between the Dashboard and city representatives to define the measurable issues of greatest importance and impact on local climate strategy. These discussions will lead to the creation of 1-2 new metrics on climate that will be added to the City Health Dashboard for your city, and eventually all 900+ cities on the Dashboard, as well as potential solutions and best practices to make measurable improvement on them.

Project Ranking (with 1 being the highest):

- Advance Road Safety in your City – GM Future Roads
- Understand and Address the Impacts of Redlining on Health – City Health Dashboard
- Plan and Finance Green Infrastructure – Upside Tech Alliance
- Build a Strategic Equity Plan for Your City – Esri
- Using Data for Strategic Planning and Budgeting in Small Cities - Polco
- Build Dashboards to Inform Affordable Housing Policies – Accela
- Implement a City Architect Advisory Board – American Institute of Architects
- Pilot Drone Use for First Responders – BRINC Drones
- Create Climate Metrics to Support Sustainability Planning – City Health Dashboard

Page 3: Project Lead Information

For the projects that you ranked 1-3, please fill out the below information about the team that would be leading the project. If you only ranked one or two projects, you only need to fill out the information for those project(s).

Project with Rank 1

1. Information for staff lead for the project. (*Note you can have more than one person participate, but we just need information for whoever will be leading the project from your municipality*).
   i. Name
   ii. Title
   iii. Email address
   iv. Phone number
2. Does the staff lead have the time and willingness to commit to this project?
3. Who is the back-up if the partner lead cannot carry out their role for any reason? Please provide name and email address.
4. Are you willing to work in a group with other municipalities on this project?

Project with Rank 2 (optional) - Please skip if you only ranked one project.

5. Information for staff lead for the project. (*Note you can have more than one person participate, but we just need information for whoever will be leading the project from your municipality*).
      i. Name
      ii. Title
      iii. Email address
      iv. Phone number
6. Does the staff lead have the time and willingness to commit to this project?
7. Who is the back-up if the partner lead cannot carry out their role for any reason? Please provide name and email address.
8. Are you willing to work in a group with other municipalities on this project?

Project with Rank 3 (optional) - Please skip if you only ranked one or two projects.

9. Information for staff lead for the project. (*Note you can have more than one person participate, but we just need information for whoever will be leading the project from your municipality*).
      i. Name
      ii. Title
      iii. Email address
      iv. Phone number
10. Does the staff lead have the time and willingness to commit to this project?
11. Who is the back-up if the partner lead cannot carry out their role for any reason? Please provide name and email address.
12. Are you willing to work in a group with other municipalities on this project?

Letter of Support

Please upload a letter of support from your Mayor or Chief Executive. This letter should indicate that the signer supports the municipality's participation in any of your top three projects.

Page 4: Additional Information

1. If we cannot match you with the projects you ranked, are you open to talking with interested partners about a different project? If so, please choose the topics that are of interest to your municipality. Please note, this is not a guarantee that NLC will be able to find an appropriate project match.

   If yes, please choose the topics that fall within your area of expertise.

      a. Small Business/Entrepreneurship

      b. Digital Equity

c.   Broadband

d.   Workforce Development

e.   Health

f.   Technology

g.   Finance

h.   Employee Support

i.   Education

j.   Cybersecurity

k.   Communications/Marketing

l.   Infrastructure

m.   Citizen Engagement

n.   Retail/Economic Development

o.   Transportation/Mobility

p.   Tourism/Hospitality

q.   Public Safety

r.   Other: ____

Page 5: Thank You

Please make sure your application is complete, and then click the Submit button below to submit your response.

Thank you for your interest in participating in the NLC Capstone Challenge Series. We will get back to you soon with a decision. If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to Annie Osborne at sponsorships@nlc.org.