



Housing Solutions Lab

Building and sharing knowledge to advance equitable local housing policy.

NYU
Furman
Center



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

Learning from Housing Policy Innovation in Small and Midsize Cities

Call for Research Proposals

Deadline: March 18, 2022 (5:00pm ET)

Overview

The **Housing Solutions Lab** at NYU Furman Center invites researchers to submit proposals that examine innovative housing policies and programs in small and midsize U.S. cities (jurisdictions with populations between 50,000-500,000 residents). With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Lab will select a maximum of four proposals to each receive up to \$25,000 in support. Awarded applicants will also receive assistance from Lab researchers and staff to develop policy products that disseminate research findings.

Goals of the RFP

Across the country, small and midsize cities are experimenting with innovative policies and interventions to address some of their most urgent and longstanding housing challenges. As cities design and implement new policy interventions, more research is needed to understand the impacts of these efforts on housing stability, affordability, and resident and community health and well-being more generally. It is also critical that cities understand the extent to which their efforts help to address economic and racial segregation and mitigate racial and other persistent disparities in housing and neighborhood outcomes.

The goal of this Request for Proposals is to support research that builds the evidence base about effective housing policies and programs in small and midsize cities throughout the U.S. In alignment with the Housing Solutions Lab's mission, we aim to fund research that helps cities advance housing policies that promote racial equity; increase access to opportunity; and improve health and wellbeing for residents. With a focus on identifying solutions, this opportunity aims to elevate actionable, timely policy insights that can help other jurisdictions advance effective, equitable housing strategies.

About the Housing Solutions Lab

The Housing Solutions Lab at NYU Furman Center works with cities across the country to design, monitor, and evaluate promising local housing policies. With funding support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Lab seeks to help cities advance evidence-based local housing policies that promote racial equity; increase access to opportunity; and support resident health and well-being. The Lab serves cities of all sizes, with a focus on small and midsize cities (those with populations of 50,000-500,000).

[Learn more about the Housing Solutions Lab's focus on small and midsize cities](#)

Topic Areas

The Housing Solutions Lab invites proposals that address a broad range of housing policy topics and that have the potential to directly inform local decision makers by offering new housing policy knowledge. We encourage proposals that examine policies related to affordable housing, housing stability, housing quality, neighborhood conditions, and the intersections between housing and health, education, and/or economic opportunity. We also welcome proposals that examine community engagement models and/or methods to center community resident perspectives in housing policy and programs.

The following list provides examples of the types of proposal topics that may be appropriate for this opportunity. Applicants are not limited to these examples and are welcome to submit proposals that explore additional topics. We encourage applicants to not only estimate average outcomes but also to study how impacts vary across neighborhoods and by demographic characteristics, including race and ethnicity. Proposals that reflect collaboration between researchers and local government agencies and/or policymakers are encouraged.

- Examining the impacts of emergency rental assistance or eviction prevention programs on housing stability and individual well-being.
- Testing new models of housing counseling or landlord recruitment to improve access to stable housing.
- Examining the impact of zoning and building code reforms on housing construction, affordability, neighborhood access, and racial and economic segregation.
- Examining the influence of community land trusts on resident housing stability and community cultural preservation.
- Exploring the impact of hospital investments in healthy and affordable housing on housing stability and health outcomes.
- Examining the impact of different approaches to code enforcement.
- Examining how different supportive service or assistance delivery models affect resident outcomes.
- Studying the impact of local fair housing laws on housing and neighborhood access.
- Studying the impacts of different models of emergency shelter.

Eligibility

- Eligible applicants include researchers from U.S. based colleges/universities, nonprofit organizations, and local and city governments.
- Researchers from all policy disciplines employing quantitative, qualitative or mixed-methods research designs are eligible for this opportunity.
- We will prioritize researchers based in small and midsize cities.
- Early career researchers and researchers from underrepresented backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

Awards

Selected proposals will receive up to \$25,000 in total funding for two years. A maximum of four proposals will be awarded. Housing Solutions Lab staff will be available to collaborate with awarded researchers to develop policy products that are timely and accessible to local decision makers and other stakeholders.

Review Process and Selection Criteria

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. All submissions will be reviewed by researchers and partners of the Housing Solutions Lab at the NYU Furman Center. Submissions will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Focus on small and midsize cities:** Proposals must focus on a policy topic related to one or more small or midsize cities.
- **Policy relevance:** Proposals should demonstrate the potential of the proposed research to generate new, actionable policy knowledge that informs local housing policy and programs relevant to the Housing Solutions Lab's mission and priorities and has the potential to deliver long-term change.
- **Quality and feasibility of proposed research design:** Proposals should have a clearly articulated research question and proposed methodology, including a feasible design that can be completed within two years of award. Proposals should demonstrate that data acquisition or collection—whether use of existing administrative or survey data or original data collection—is feasible within a two-year study period.

- **Significance of the research for promoting racial and health equity:** Proposals will be reviewed for their potential to advance new knowledge and solutions that help cities reduce housing disparities, improve housing outcomes, and promote healthier and more equitable communities.
- **Studies that build local research capacity:** Proposals should explain how the project will engage local policymakers and stakeholders and expand capacity for policy research in the long term.

Timeline

RFP Announced	February 15, 2022
Deadline to Submit Proposal Questions	March 8, 2022
RFP Closes	March 18, 2022
Applicant Notifications	April 12, 2022

Applicants may be contacted with clarifying questions or for additional information during the proposal review process.

Application Process

All proposals must be submitted through the online application.

[View the Application](#)

We encourage interested researchers to contact the Housing Solutions Lab with questions prior to proposal submission. Please direct questions to Martha Galvez, Executive Director, Housing Solutions Lab at contact@localhousingsolutions.org by March 8, 2022.