



# Call for Research Proposals: Learning from Housing Policy Innovation in Small and Midsize Cities

**Deadline: July 7, 2023 (5:00pm ET)**

## Overview

The **Housing Solutions Lab** at NYU Furman Center invites research proposals that examine local 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 \$30,000 in support. Awarded applicants will also receive assistance from Lab researchers and staff to develop policy products that disseminate research findings. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis. [Learn about the 2022 Housing Policy Innovation Grantees](#)

## Goals of the RFP

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 United States. With a focus on identifying solutions, this opportunity aims to elevate actionable, timely policy insights for localities.

## Topic Areas

Research should focus on a local policy or program that has already been or is being implemented in one or more small and midsize cities. It should shed light on the intervention's implications for housing access, affordability, and stability; its efficacy, implementation challenges; and/or lessons. Proposals should describe research that has the potential to directly inform local decision makers by offering new housing policy knowledge. We encourage research questions that explore issues related to housing disparities and racial equity.

We will prioritize proposals focused on the following topics:

- Local land use and zoning reform (e.g. inclusionary housing, eliminating single family zoning)
- Tenant protections and eviction prevention
- Lowering barriers to housing for low-income renters
- Increasing access to homeownership
- Efforts to increase access to low-poverty, opportunity-rich neighborhoods
- Efforts to address vacant, abandoned, and deteriorating housing
- Efforts to advance fair housing

## Eligibility

Eligible applicants include researchers from U.S. based colleges/universities, nonprofit organizations, and city governments. Researchers from all policy disciplines are eligible for this opportunity.

We will prioritize researchers based in small and midsize cities, and partnerships between researchers and local government partners from small and midsize cities.

Early career researchers and researchers from underrepresented backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. Proposals involving dissertation research are welcome.

## Research Design and Deliverables

The research may be quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods in nature. It may be comparative (studying the implementation of an intervention across small and midsize cities) or focus on a single case. If the latter, generalizability to other small and midsize cities should be discussed.

Awarded applicants will meet with Lab researchers to discuss their research scope, design, and data sources within the first 6 months of the grant period. They will give a virtual presentation hosted by the NYU Furman Center at approximately the 1-year mark to update on their progress and gather feedback. Awardees will receive assistance from Lab researchers and staff to develop policy products that disseminate research findings to local decision makers as well as to broader practitioner and policy audiences. Research findings will also be featured in brief on the Housing Solutions Lab's website, and awardees will be invited to present their work in person or virtually.

## Submissions Requirements

Proposals must include a completed [application form](#) and CVs/brief biosketches for up to three investigators. Proposals do not need to include a budget. Awardees will be required to submit a scope of work, total requested budget, and brief budget justification at the time of the award.

## Awards

Selected proposals will receive up to \$30,000 in total funding. Projects must be completed within two years of award date. A maximum of four proposals will be awarded. Awards may be used to fund activities necessary to carry out the research project, including staff salaries, data collection and analysis. Funding may not be used to provide direct services (e.g. health care, housing, education), to run programs, to renovate or build facilities, or for lobbying policymakers.

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 examining a policy or program in 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-run change.
- **Quality and feasibility of proposed research design:** Proposals should clearly articulate 1-2 research questions and a proposed methodology that can feasibly be completed within two years of award. If your proposal is too broad or encompasses multiple projects, we may encourage you to refine it or fund only a discrete portion. Proposals should also 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 equity:** Proposals will be reviewed for their potential to advance new knowledge and solutions that help cities reduce housing disparities and advance more equitable communities.

## Timeline

RFP Announced	June 7, 2023
RFP Closes	July 7, 2023, 5:00pm ET
Finalist Notifications	July 28, 2023
All Applicant Notifications	August 4, 2023

Prior to final proposal selection, finalists will be contacted to arrange a call with Housing Solutions Lab staff and faculty.

## Application Process

All proposals must be submitted through the [application form](#). We encourage interested researchers to contact the Housing Solutions Lab with questions prior to proposal submission. Please direct questions to Claudia Aiken, Director of New Research Partnerships, at [claudia.aiken@nyu.edu](mailto:claudia.aiken@nyu.edu).

## 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. The Lab aims 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.

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