



Call for Proposals: Catalyzing Housing and Health Collaborations in Small and Midsize Cities

Deadline: October 23, 2023 (5:00pm EDT)

Introduction

Despite the well-documented connections between housing and health, the two sectors often work in silos and miss opportunities to collaborate on policies and programs that can help cities advance health and well-being. Collaborations between housing and health have the potential to help cities confront a variety of issues that cross both sectors, such as reducing homelessness, improving housing and neighborhood conditions, supporting aging in place, and responding to the climate crisis.

To help catalyze and accelerate local cross-sector collaborations, the [Housing Solutions Lab](#) at NYU Furman Center will fund up to three city teams to advance projects at the intersection of housing and health. With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, selected teams will each receive \$25,000 to conduct projects over 12 months. The funding will support teams in small and midsize cities with populations between 50,000-500,000 residents.

In addition to funding, project teams will have access to data and research assistance from the Housing Solutions Lab. Upon successfully meeting project aims during the initial funding period, project teams may be eligible for additional support.

Goals

The goal of this funding is to spark meaningful cross-sector collaborations between local housing and health stakeholders in small and midsize cities. With a focus on systems-level change, this opportunity seeks to help localities:

- Increase capacity and momentum for strategic collaboration between housing and health stakeholders.
- Address policy priorities shared between the housing and health sectors.
- Leverage cross-sector expertise, resources, and perspectives to achieve shared goals.
- Advance holistic cross-sector approaches that promote healthy communities.

Project Topics

Projects may address a broad range of issues that bring together cross-sector teams for shared strategy, implementation, and evaluation activities. Potential projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Designing, piloting, or evaluating initiatives focused on a shared challenge. (e.g. supporting aging in place, improving housing quality, reducing homelessness and housing instability, revitalizing neighborhoods)
- Establishing or strengthening data sharing practices and tools to pursue a shared goal.
- Examining the potential impact of land use, zoning, and housing policies on health through formal planning processes such as a Health Impact Assessment.
- Integrating health priorities into the development of a local housing strategy.
- Developing collaborative community needs assessment or community engagement activities to inform a shared policy or program initiative.

We encourage projects that promote racial equity and/or include a focus on populations that disproportionately experience housing or health disparities, including, but not limited to persons with low incomes, persons experiencing homelessness, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

Eligibility and City Teams

Applicants must be based in small and midsize United States cities with populations between 50,000-500,000. Applicant organizations may include local governments, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, public entities, and for-profit organizations. Project teams must include local government representation. (e.g. housing, planning, health department, mayor's office)

At a minimum, teams must include two organizations that represent a cross-sector partnership between housing and health. Teams may also include partners from other sectors that are relevant to the project. All participants must be committed to collaborating across sectors and taking steps to advance sustainable partnerships and change. Teams may include, but are not limited to participants from:

- Local government agencies and elected offices
- Community-based organizations
- Healthcare institutions, systems, and payers
- Housing, health, and social service providers
- Institutions of higher education

Projects that build upon existing partnerships are preferred, but new and emerging partnerships are also eligible.

Teams must identify two project leaders to serve as the main points of contact for the project. Lab staff will hold quarterly virtual meetings with each team to provide assistance and ensure progress. Upon project completion, teams will work with the Housing Solutions Lab to share project learnings through policy publications and presentations.



Read the Housing Solutions Lab Brief on **Integrating Health into Local Housing Strategies**

Funding Commitment

Selected teams must commit to:

- Carry out the core project activities within one year of the grant award.
- Participate in quarterly virtual meetings with Housing Solutions Lab and/or partners.
- Complete a public-facing deliverable (publication, presentation, webinar, etc.).
- Submit a brief final project report to the Housing Solutions Lab.

Awards

Each selected project will receive an award of \$25,000 to complete the project within 12 months of the award date. Up to three cities will be awarded. Funding may be used to carry out necessary activities to complete the project, including, but not limited to staff and consultant salaries, convening/meeting costs, community member engagement, research, and data collection. Funding may not be used to provide direct services (e.g. health care, housing, education), to run programs, to provide general public education, to renovate or build facilities, or to lobby policymakers.

Applications and Selection Criteria

Applicants must complete the [application form](#) and provide biosketches for project leads. Applications will be reviewed based upon the following criteria:

- **Project Relevance:** Does the project focus on advancing health and well-being through a cross-sector housing and health collaboration?
- **Project Feasibility:** Can the proposed activities be completed within 12 months?
- **Team Composition:** Does the project team include individuals and institutions that are well-positioned to carry out the project?
- **Systems Approach:** Does the project help housing and health stakeholders work more holistically towards achieving shared goals and healthier communities?
- **Equity:** Does the project include a focus on improving housing and/or health disparities?
- **Field Building:** Does the project offer insights for other localities to build cross-sector partnerships?

Timeline

Call for Proposals Announced	September 20, 2023
Proposal Deadline	October 23, 2023 (5:00pm EDT)
Award Notifications	November 17, 2023

Prior to project selections, finalists will be contacted to arrange a call with Housing Solutions Center staff.

Applicants must complete the [application form](#). Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the Housing Solutions Lab with questions before completing the application. Please direct questions to Camille Watson, Director of Strategy and Policy. camille.watson@nyu.edu

About the Housing Solutions Lab

The Housing Solutions Lab at NYU Furman Center works with cities across the country to advance evidence-based local housing policies that promote racial equity, increase access to opportunity, and support resident health and well-being.