



2024 New York State Peer Network

Call for Applications

Click here to apply by July 8, 2024.

Overview

The Housing Solutions Lab (Lab) and **Enterprise Community Partners** (Enterprise) invite applications for the New York State Peer Network, an eight-month opportunity for leaders from municipalities throughout New York State to implement, refine, and strengthen tools to meet rental housing and homeownership needs in their communities.

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Lab and Enterprise will bring together teams of local city officials and housing stakeholders. The program will include interactive sessions with peers, insightful presentations from policy experts, and personalized technical support to address pressing local housing challenges. Together, we will help participants:

- Identify promising practices to address challenges for funding, implementing, and evaluating strategies to improve housing assets and create new housing opportunities, including but not limited to:
 - Local land use and zoning reform (e.g., improving the landscape for housing development, tailoring zoning principles to a range of housing markets)
 - Identifying developable land
 - Unlocking tax incentives and local capital resources
 - Strategic code enforcement
 - Anti-displacement strategies
 - Leveraging state and federal housing programs
 - Leveraging climate resiliency programs
 - Solutions for tax foreclosed or vacant, abandoned, or deteriorated properties
 - Constructive negotiation strategies with developers
- Access and analyze local and state data on housing, zoning, etc.
- Develop action plans to make progress on implementing and/or strengthening existing programs or policies

Network Format

Network cities will convene for an in-person kickoff event in September. During the subsequent eight-month program, participants will attend monthly virtual sessions of 60-90 minutes. Sessions will include brief presentations from housing policy experts and city participants followed by facilitated discussions to provide progress updates, reflect on challenges, ask questions, and share lessons learned from local innovations.

Team members must participate in monthly virtual discussions with the full group of Network participants. They will also have the opportunity to join technical assistance sessions or calls with Lab or Enterprise staff on a case-by-case basis.

About the Housing Solutions Lab

The Housing Solutions Lab at the 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 to 500,000).

Eligibility

The Lab will select eight to ten municipal teams to participate in the Network. Teams may include three to four participants from relevant sectors, including but not limited to:

- Local government officials or staff focused on housing policies/programs (at least one is required). Examples include a mayor or city manager, a senior government employee focused on economic development or housing, or a local elected official.
- Nonprofit practitioners with strong connections to local work
- Neighborhood housing service providers
- Community banks and lenders
- Philanthropic partners or foundations

Each team must identify one leader to serve as the primary point of contact for the Network and for completing the application. All participants should be prepared to actively engage in monthly group discussions and be enthusiastic about shared learning, problem-solving, and networking with colleagues from across the state.

Participating jurisdictions must have populations between 25,000 and 100,000. While this program is primarily geared toward municipal governments, we welcome applications from a county government or joint applications from multiple jurisdictions as long as the total population meets the 25,000 resident threshold.

Strength of application will be determined by:

- Demonstration of housing needs by applicant
- Team capacity and commitment to advancing the jurisdiction's housing goals
- Enthusiasm for collaborating with peer governments to foster shared learning, resource sharing, and policy innovation

Benefits of Participation

The Network will provide local leaders with timely information to support housing policy analysis and decisions affecting New York State. This includes:

- **Peer networking and support:** Network participants will join a community of peers across New York State and an ongoing forum for shared learning, support, and policy innovation.
- **Local housing data:** Participants will have support in describing and analyzing data on local and state housing conditions, trends, and challenges.
- **Timely policy resources:** Participants will receive timely, actionable policy updates and access to case studies, research, and other resources to inform housing efforts.
- **Access to Lab technical assistance and research support:** On a case-by-case basis, participants will have access to technical assistance and research to help advance local housing strategies and solutions.

Application Process and Timeline

May 28, 2024	Call for applications released
June 11, 2024	Zoom Q&A session
July 8, 2024	Application deadline
July 31, 2024	Notification of selected municipalities
August 2024	Participant intake calls
September 2024	In-person kickoff convening (location TBD)

We welcome questions about the Network opportunity and ways to develop a successful application. Please contact Elizabeth Zeldin (ezeldin@enterprisecommunity.org) and Jess Wunsch (jess.wunsch@nyu.edu) with questions.

[View the Application.](#)