

Overview:

for maximum impact takes planning, coordination, resources, data, and the ongoing involvement of local civic leaders. The Advancing Cities Challenge will provide local leaders that have galvanized their communities around a vision and solutions to improve their economic trajectory with the resources needed to implement their plan.

The Advancing Cities Challenge aims to:

- Accelerate the progress of cities that have a shared understanding of the biggest challenges facing their communities;
- Drive collaboration between public, private, and nonprofit actors to advance big ideas that tackle persistent challenges to inclusive growth
- Surface innovative solutions to address these persistent challenges, particularly those challenges that underlie persistent racial and economic inequities.

To apply applicants must provide the following information:

I. PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Provide a concise overview of the proposal, including:

- Your need/problem statement;
- Your geography and population served;
- Your goal; and
- Your proposed solution against the problem statement.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Provide a clear and concise statement of the problem you seek to address. List up to five additional resources (research papers, data sets, maps, etc.) that provide additional context on the nature and extent of this challenge.

III. SOLUTION

Outline your detailed strategy to address the stated problems, and specific goals and measurable outcomes. This should include reference to any existing plans, data, and research that informed your design and implementation strategy. Applicants should also describe the conditions (resources, political will, etc.) that will make this solution successful, and why it is the right moment in time to pursue the approach.

IV. ALIGNMENT

Articulate how this proposal aligns with at least two systems within : [W D philanthropic focus areas](#) and how this initiative will integrate strategies across these systems and others (if applicable). This includes outlining how this proposal will tackle persistent inequities (racial, economic, etc.), and how implementation will reduce inequities and drive more inclusive growth across the city or region. Applicants should also demonstrate how this solution could be further accelerated by other JPMC resources including our Field and Virtual Service Corps volunteers, JPMC Institute data, corporate and philanthropic relationships, among others.

V. MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Collaboration and leadership

- Lead organization Describe the leading partner for this effort, including history of leadership in the community, alignment with mission, experience leading similar programs, and systems-level oversight.
- Coalition of partners List the partners that comprise the multi-sector coalition to help lead implementation.
 - o Provide details on partners and expected contributions in terms of resources, skills, and expertise. Please also include expected subgrants to organizations leading specific interventions.
 - o Describe the demonstrated history of collaboration between these partners, and past successes working together.
 - o Provide details on the diversity of partners involved (racial, geographic, sectoral).

Expectations

Expectations of participants include:

Selection Process Requirements Applicants must be available for phone/video interviews in mid-February 2019. At least one representative must be available for announcement activities in late April.

Other requirements will include (included in grant budget):

- Submit MOU and work plan for participating organizations
- National evaluator: JPMC will work with a national evaluator, who will produce a series of studies and reports that assess the progress and results of the Advancing Cities Challenge. Each local evaluation partner must participate in calls, report data to the national evaluation team, and submit an initial research plan to JPMC and its national evaluation partner.
- Release annual progress report: Each winner will have a local evaluator that is required to put out a public white paper/progress report with detailed, quantitative data and impact on the project annually on their website and/or release during a media/visibility event. They will share an estimated timeline for release early in the year to JPMC to assist in planning.
- Submit JPMC CyberGrants impact report: In addition to the national evaluation requirement, all Advancing Cities CyberGrants. They will receive a reminder email from our system 30 days prior to the due date of the report.
- Share a story of how the target geography/population was directly impacted by the grant: When the grant is awarded, we will request a short, 1-2 page interest story that highlights the problem or challenge the grant addressed, describes how the geography/population served was assisted by the grant, and helps explain the success of the program.

Key Dates*

September 12	Advancing Cities RFP is released
September 17	JPMC will host an informational session on September 17, 2018, at 3:00pm ET to answer your questions about the program and RFP. Please RSVP here.
September 25	JPMC will host a second informational session on September 25, 2018, at 1:00pm ET. Please RSVP here.
November 30	Proposals due in CyberGrants on November 30, 2018 at 11:59PM ET
December to March 2019	Applications will go through three rounds of review, and winners will be notified at each stage. Please see Scoring Criteria in the FAQ.
Mid-February 2019	Finalists participate in phone/video interviews with JPMC
March 2019	Initial award notification
March to early April 2019	Grant agreements finalized
Late April 2019	Winners announced

*These dates are subject to change

Submission

All proposals must be submitted via [CyberGrants](#)

Do organizations need to be located within the same geographic area?

Organizations do not have to be located in the same geographic location. However, activities must be geographically focused in a single city, town, or region.

Does having an existing grant from JPMC disqualify an applicant?

No.

How will the applications be evaluated?

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated according to the criteria outlined below:

- Geography: Reaches or deepens impact in a defined area, identifies and addresses a defined gap or need in the market and demonstrates clear priorities for geographies and populations targeted;
- Rationale, approach, and alignment:

What is the timeline of the proposal review and selection process?

- September 12 Advancing Cities Challenge RFP released
- September 17, 25 Informational session on the Challenge
- November 30: Deadline to submit applications at 11:59 PM ET
- December to March: Applications go through review
 - o Mid-February: phone/video interviews
- March: Initial award notification
- March to early April: Grant agreements finalized
- Late April: Winners announced

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