

ICMA Economic Mobility and Opportunity Cohort and Grant

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

ICMA's Economic Mobility and Opportunity (EMO) Cohort is a unique and rare networking opportunity for ICMA members to receive training, technical assistance, and funding to inform policies and effect conditions that promote overall well-being and upward mobility for their residents. This opportunity is made possible with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The goals of this opportunity are to 1) increase local decision-makers' understanding of drivers of and barriers to mobility and opportunity and 2) support local leaders in identifying and implementing actions to advance upward mobility for residents of their communities.

ICMA is looking for up to 10 local governments to learn from one another and subject matter experts, and to learn about practical tools and resources to apply within their community. The selected local governments will receive a grant of \$30,000 for the implementation of an economic mobility assessment, planning, or engagement process as part of their participation in the cohort. Participating local governments will have access to additional virtual and/or in-person technical assistance support covered by ICMA with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Cohort activities are anticipated to occur between April – October 2023.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applications must be submitted by U.S. local government entities and identify a team of three participating representatives.
- Teams must include the local government's chief administrative officer (CAO) or assistant chief administrative officer (CAAO). Other project team members may include additional staff, elected officials, chamber members, representatives of other community partners, etc.
- Teams must include at least one ICMA member.

IDEAL TEAM MEMBERS

- Community leaders who are committed to improving economic outcomes for residents.
- Interested in exploring a wide range of themes related to economic mobility such as housing, workforce, education and addressing intergenerational poverty.
- Willing and enthusiastic participants in discussion and learning opportunities.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

- Attendance of all participants at two in-person events, with travel costs for three (3) participants per local government covered by ICMA with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The first event is expected take place in late April/early May.
- Team participation in monthly virtual cohort calls of up to 90 minutes each.
- Submission of a scope of work and budget for use of grant funds, with funding awarded following approval from ICMA.
- Fulfillment all reporting and evaluation requests from ICMA staff and funder by stated deadlines.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the cohort, submit an application via the [online form](#) (also accessible via icma.org/emo) by **the extended deadline, 5:00 pm EST on March 6, 2023**. Application questions are provided for reference in this document beginning on the following page.

Once an application has been created and submitted, you may continue to update your submission until the application closes at 5:00 pm EST on Monday, March 6, 2023. Instructions on how to access and update your initial submission will be emailed to the primary contact identified in your application.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed to create a well-rounded cohort representing geographic, demographic, economic, and level of experience diversity across the participating local governments. Additional evaluation criteria include:

- Strength of participation team/staff capacity
- Projected impact of participation
- Demonstrated commitment to improving economic mobility and opportunity for their residents.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

- February 2, 2023: Application opens
- February 15, 2023: Information and Q&A session via Zoom
- March 6, 2023 (5:00 pm EST): Application closes
- March 15, 2023: Selected local governments notified (subject to change)
- April 2023: Cohort orientation virtual meeting
- Late April/early May: In-person cohort meeting
- April – October: Ongoing technical assistance and learning opportunities; monthly virtual calls
- Late summer/early fall: Second in-person cohort meeting

CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding eligibility, participation, or project requirements, please contact us at research@icma.org.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Applications should be submitted via the [online form](#) (also accessible via icma.org/emo). If you cannot submit via the form, contact research@icma.org prior to the March 6, 2023 deadline to coordinate and confirm submission via email.

The information requested in the online application is previewed below for your planning purposes.

1. Local Government Information

Name of local government

State

2020 Census population

2020 Census median household income

2022 general fund budget

2. Local Government Representatives / Cohort Participants

Please provide the requested information for each proposed participant from your community. In addition to your CAO or ACAO, project team members may include additional staff, elected officials, chamber members, representatives of other community partners, etc. The expectation of the full team is to participate in all monthly calls. Attendance at the two in person meetings is required and travel expenses will be covered for the three participants.

Participant 1 Information: This must be the chief administrative officer or assistant chief administrative officer of your local government. This individual will be the primary contact for your application for all correspondence via the email address you provide. You may designate a second email address to receive copies of these communications.

Participant 1 (CAO or ACAO)

Name

Title

Email address

CC correspondence to address

Phone number

ICMA membership status

Brief bio

Participant 2

Name

Title

Email address

ICMA membership status

Brief bio

Participant 3

Name

Title

Email address

ICMA membership status

Brief bio

3. Describe how your local government currently prioritizes upward mobility and opportunity for its residents. To what extent do these concepts and themes align with any existing strategic goals, plans, staffing, programs, etc.? While extensive prior experience is not required, we are looking for indications of capacity to readily apply learnings from this cohort even if you are just getting started. (1,500 character limit)
4. What current challenges does your community face that create barriers between your residents and upward economic mobility? What solutions or resources are your community hoping to gain from participating in this cohort? (1,500 character limit)

5. **Briefly describe the anticipated impacts of/initial ideas for how your community would spend the \$30,000 in grant funds to address economic mobility and opportunity within your community. (1,500 character limit)**

Typical projects include an assessment, planning, or engagement process related to one or more economic mobility and opportunity themes. Focus areas could be comprehensive and/or targeted to issues such as workforce housing, childcare access, community health, neighborhood cleanup, broadband access, or other priorities. Eligible costs would typically include: core personnel; consultants for facilitation, planning, data collection and analysis; stakeholder engagement with community organizations, residents and other partners; or costs associated with early implementation of action plan.

Note: if selected, award of funding is subject to a final budget and scope of work approved by ICMA.