

FD24000 National League of Cities (NLC): Community Engagement Academy - FY 2025

eCivics Grant Detail

Grant: FD24000 National League of Cities (NLC): Community Engagement Academy - FY 2025

Provided for: Erica Anderson of Florida League of Cities

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Summary

Type:	Foundation
Agency:	FD Foundation
Office:	National League of Cities (NLC)
Total Assets:	\$51,241,556
Last Tax Filing:	09/30/2023
Match Required:	No
Actual Funds:	Unspecified
Payment Type:	Unspecified
Project Period:	12 Months
Project Start Date:	September 2025
Project End Date:	September 2026
Solicitation Date:	Unknown
Next Due:	06/30/2025 (Application)
Eligible Applicants:	Local Government
Multipart Grant:	No

The purpose of this program is to create a resilient and robust infrastructure for integrating resident voices into city governance. Awarded cities will be provided with the opportunity to build new relationships with community partners and ensure that every community member is heard, especially those from historically marginalized groups.

Selected cities will develop the fundamental capacity to develop a more inclusive and community-led approach to governance through tailored technical assistance, practical tools, and peer learning engagements. Ultimately, cities will lay the groundwork for a community-driven future.

Supported city governments will unlock transformative potential by moving beyond transactional, one-time engagements and instead authentically engage residents through ongoing two-way dialogue and shared decision-making. This deeper level of involvement is intended to create more impactful solutions, and also repair trust with historically marginalized communities, particularly when prior engagement has been lacking or dismissive.

The Cities of Opportunity (CoO) Community Engagement Academy will offer a cohort experience for cities seeking to deepen their approach and build essential capacity and infrastructure for long-term community engagement. Over the course of the academy, city teams will be guided through a stepwise process to evaluate their current community engagement efforts and pinpoint opportunities to strengthen existing capacity, ultimately developing a concrete workplan outlining the strategies and milestones needed to implement vital community engagement infrastructure.

The academy will include:

- Bimonthly workshops for capacity building and strategy development to create sustainable and bidirectional community engagement infrastructure
- Paid travel to an in-person convening in Washington, D.C., in February 2026, for three team members
- One-on-one technical assistance support with subject matter experts from the funding agency and partner organizations
- Peer engagement opportunities for city teams to connect with one another and exchange ideas and experiences in building out their community engagement infrastructure
- Additional tools, resources, and networking opportunities through the initiative

The academy will empower city leaders and their community partners to fundamentally shift their approach to community engagement by building capacity and establishing essential infrastructure for long-term, sustained engagement beyond one-off interactions. As a result, participating cities will establish:

An institutional commitment to community engagement as a core value of their operations

Infrastructure for long-term engagement, such as community outreach departments or leads, accessible communication channels for regular dialogue, staff practices that support long-term community engagement, and consistent processes for soliciting and integrating resident input for decision-making
Enhanced capacity for community partnerships through reimagining the potential of city relationships with community partners

Applicant cities must demonstrate:

Support of the mayor and/or city manager for participation in the academy

Readiness and commitment to assemble an effective core team

Commitment to participation in the full academy programming including all workshops, one-on-one technical assistance sessions, and independent preparation

An understanding of key priorities and existing gaps in community engagement for the city, including specific populations who are under-represented in the current community engagement structure

A commitment to engaging with residents that have been historically under-represented

Dedication to advancing health and well-being for all residents in their community

An issue or opportunity that could ultimately benefit from an improved engagement process

A commitment to sustain meaningful engagement with the community beyond the time frame of the academy

An optional webinar is scheduled for this program.

Applicants may submit an optional letter of intent prior to submitting applications.

This program is related to the National League of Cities (NLC): Community Health and Wellbeing Accelerator program, known in *eCivis Grants Network* as FD23999.

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Apply now to join two new technical assistance cohorts organized by NLC's [Cities of Opportunity Initiative](#). Each opportunity supports leaders in making strategic, systems-level change to improve the health and wellbeing of their communities.

These programs will provide bespoke, expert-level technical assistance to city government staff and officials who envision a future for their communities based on a foundation of trust and innovation to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for all residents.

Each cohort program lasts 12 months and applies proven frameworks to empower city leaders to develop solutions to the challenges their communities face in health and wellbeing. To decide which program is right for you, review the information below and register to attend the [informational webinar on May 20th at 1 PM ET](#).

Which Program is Right for You?

The Community Engagement Academy

Six cities will embark on a transformative journey to integrate resident voices into city governance. Selected cities will enhance their ability to deeply and continually engage residents and partners to improve health outcomes for all. Through tailored technical assistance, practical tools, and peer learning engagements, participants will develop the fundamental capacity to build a more inclusive and community-led approach to governance.

This program is right for cities that:

- Have a vision for community engagement based in transparency and collaborative communication with residents;
- View resident voice as a key factor in their information gathering process and wish to institutionalize the practice of communicating with individuals and community

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- Are ready to develop reliable infrastructures for communication and relationship development with local partners and community groups for long-term collaboration.

The Community Health and Wellbeing Accelerator

Six cities will address the root cause of health disparities by building their capacity, leveraging their assets, and driving transformative policy and systems changes. Participating cities will leverage the proven Cities of Opportunity approach, which includes expert coaching, tools, and a curated peer learning environment, yielding proven impacts in resident health and wellbeing.

This program is right for cities that:

- Are searching for a proven framework to align city staff and officials in their work to support a shared mission of improving health and wellbeing for all residents;
- Want to actively engage executive leadership in a partnership for systems change and thoughtful policy development; and,
- Can build a cross-sector team of enthusiastic team members from city departments and local partners to carry out a comprehensive work plan to improve community health and wellbeing outcomes.

Important Information

- Applications are due by 11:59 PM ET on Monday, June 30, 2025.
- The support of your city, town or village's top executive is required.
- During each program, cities will be expected to participate in one in-person convening in Washington, DC.
- Cities may choose to apply to both cohorts, though they will only be chosen for one of the two cohorts.

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Find out which opportunity is best for you and get insights into the application process by attending a webinar on **Tuesday, May 20**.

REGISTER NOW

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