CivStart

CivStart is a nonprofit accelerator for government technology startups dedicated to creating an honest and inclusive ecosystem for innovative solutions to the most pressing problems faced by state and local governments.

NLC CIE Commitment

The National League of Cities (NLC) City Innovation Ecosystems (CIE) Program is a partnership with [Schmidt Futures](#) and the [Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation](#) that asks city leaders to commit to creating the right policies, program, and practices to ensure their communities can thrive in the global, innovation-driven economy.

By committing to work with CivStart, the NLC CIE program will cover the costs associated with CivStart's regular one-on-one work to help a city **1) Identify core challenges** with internal city processes or facing the city's communities; **2) Identify and vet potential innovative, cost-effective startups solutions** to meet those challenges; and **3) Deploy and help project manage free or low-cost pilot programs** to meet those challenges, as proof-of-concepts toward fuller-scale procurement.

City of Manor

The City of Manor, Texas is located 12 miles northeast of Austin and is part of the Austin-Round Rock metropolitan area. The population is 10,000 residents in 10 square miles. Manor is one of the faster-growing suburbs of Austin. The City has numerous parks, outdoor activities, community events, and a small walkable downtown on the city's main street, Parsons St..

Challenge Statement

A challenge statement is a clear definition of the problem or challenge your government or communities are facing that doesn't specify a particular approach or solution, but allows for a number of ways the challenge can be met.

1. **Downtown Revitalization** - The current downtown in Manor includes numerous brick and mortar stores, old residences, but with the rapidly-growing city and a coming light-rail, it is a challenge finding a shared a vision of a growing downtown where the history and character of the town can be preserved while allowing for new construction, adaptation to changing residents' preferences, and growth. Another challenge is facing

businesses who might consider building, since many of the existing lots nearby are too smal individually.
2. **Parking/Transportation** - With the coming light rail, and an already-walkable and bikable city, there will be increasing public transportation options. However, with the rapid growth of the city, the main street will lose a lot of its parking to road-widening, making parking a real challenge for getting residents and visitors between downtown and their homes or public-transportation options.

Statement on Real or Perceived Conflict of Interest

In the interest of transparency, we want to ensure clarity about any real or potential conflicts of interest that may exist. CivStart is a startup accelerator that is also providing advisory services directly to local governments and we recognize this can create the appearance or reality of conflict. In order to avoid any appearance of impropriety:

- ❏ our project lead on the NLC-Kauffman CIE program (Sarah) will be different than the project lead who works directly with our startups (Anthony) on pursuing local government opportunities;
- ❏ any non-public information shared by our government partners with CivStart will be treated as confidential from startups in our accelerator unless our government partners explicitly waive this due to the need for greater speed and flexibility during a pilot program, or it is made available publicly;
- ❏ CivStart may help in the formulation of problem statements for the pilot programs, but will not be involved in the later drafting of any RFPs or formal procurement bidding processes, should they emerge from the pilot projects; and
- ❏ CivStart will, at all other times, act as a trusted partner for our government partners' interests first, making known anytime we are discussing a startup that we have financial or reputational interest in promoting.