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USALEEP Funding Opportunities

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions may be submitted to USALEEP@urban.org until **November 15th at 5 PM EST**.

Who can I contact if I have a question?

For all questions, please email USALEEP@urban.org.

Can I apply to both the Powering Healthy Lives and Visualizing Healthy Lives funding opportunities?

To ensure that the funding opportunity is open and equitable to all, applicants **are not permitted** to apply to both Visualizing Healthy Lives and the Powering Healthy Lives.

Can I submit multiple applications to one funding opportunity?

To support equity and accessibility throughout the award process, applicants may only submit **one application**. Applying organizations may also not be included on more than one proposal.

Who can participate?

This is an open competition, and we welcome proposals interested in putting local data to work for healthier communities from (*including but not limited to*):

- Nonprofit practitioners
- Local government offices
- Researchers
- Community organizers
- Service Providers

The two core types of applicants asked to apply are nonprofits and public entities. Universities are ineligible to apply but can serve as a partner to eligible applicants. Urban Institute staff are ineligible to apply or participate in this funding opportunity in any capacity, to include applying in partnership with other eligible applicants. Please see the Other Special Considerations section on the [Visualizing Healthy Lives](#) or [Powering Healthy Lives](#) websites for more details on additional qualifications.

Are organizations that aim to use data for Maine and Wisconsin eligible to participate?

Since there is no data available currently for Maine and Wisconsin, applicants seeking funding to exclusively serve populations within these states are not eligible as using USALEEP data is a core requirement of the call for ideas.

What happens if I turn in my application late?

Late applications will not be accepted. If you are facing difficulties in submitting your application, please contact USALEEP@urban.org.

Why People, Place, and Power?

The Powering Healthy Lives funding opportunity seeks to support projects informed by the expertise of communities experiencing significant barriers to health – limitations categorized by people, place, and power.

The Powering Healthy Lives funding opportunity seeks to fund proposals that align with the “people” priority area by supporting proposals led and/or informed by the expertise of communities who have systematically experienced social or economic barriers to health– based on race, ethnicity, religion, class, immigration status, gender, age, or mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.

Additionally, Powering Healthy Lives aims to support community solutions that align with the “place” priority because geography plays a significant role in health outcomes, evidenced by key [regions facing some of the worst health disparities](#). A list of some of these communities can be found under the Power section of the Powering Healthy Lives website [here](#).

Lastly, Powering Healthy Lives calls for projects that align with the “power” priority because health inequity persists in communities that currently do not have the infrastructure, resources, or power to provide equitable health outcomes. A list of some of these communities can be found under the Power section of the Powering Healthy Lives website [here](#).

Can multiple applicants be on the same proposal?

Partnerships between multiple organizations are encouraged to apply. However, only one organization can serve as the lead applicant and the grant recipient.

Please note that universities are ineligible to apply but can serve as a partner to eligible applicants. In such cases, the university must not be the lead applicant nor the grant recipient.

What is the duration of the grants?

The Visualizing Healthy Lives funding opportunity will only be available for projects lasting up to six months from the start date of the grant agreement. The Powering Healthy Lives funding opportunity will only be available for projects lasting up to one year from the start date of the grant agreement.

Because we will be sharing the final products publicly, multiple-year projects will not be allowed.

Can I submit a proposal for a project that targets a specific neighborhood in a metropolitan area?

The Visualizing Healthy Lives funding opportunity welcomes projects that are local, regional, or national in scope.

The Powering Healthy Lives funding opportunity welcomes projects that target multiple communities, individual cities, and/or specific neighborhoods or communities within metropolitan areas. Please see the People, Place, and Power sections on the [Powering Healthy Lives website](#) for more details.

Will I receive guidance on my idea submission before I submit it?

Applicants will receive support and technical assistance throughout the Call for Ideas and Full Proposal submission phases, including webinars and feedback upon request.

Applicants can find recorded webinars (*when available*), links to key resources, and other materials under “Key Materials” on the USALEEP Funding Opportunity website: [USALEEP.urban.org](https://www.usaleep.org).

Additionally, any Call for Ideas submitted before **Friday, November 16th at 3PM EST** will be reviewed by the Urban team, and applicants will be contacted if materials are missing or formatted incorrectly. Re-submissions will not be allowed for LOIs submitted on **Friday, November 16th**.

How do I submit my Letter of Interest?

Applicants should submit their LOIs via email to USALEEP@urban.org by **3 PM EST on or before Friday, November 16th**. All LOI documents should be submitted as one email using the below subject line with your organization name and the relevant funding opportunity:

“Visualizing Healthy Lives LOI_Org. Name” OR “Powering Healthy Lives LOI_Org. Name”

We encourage applicants to enable an email delivery receipt confirmation when sending your email submission. Any application submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

What happens after I submit?

All submissions will undergo an initial review process in December 2018. Top ideas will be invited to submit Full Proposals for award consideration by **December 19th**.

During the Full Proposal stage, applicants will be asked to provide budgeting and financial information for their projects, as well as to expand on their proposed idea. A second review process will consider the Full Proposals, and award grantees will be selected and announced in **May 2019**.

How will grant funds be distributed?

The Urban Institute will execute, administer, and manage all subgrant agreements with the lead organization as indicated on the LOI Application Form. Subgrants will be cost reimbursement agreements with payment made via regular disbursements throughout the project, the first issued upon full execution.

How will applications be judged?

Both funding opportunities consists of stages within the application process:

	Visualizing Healthy Lives	Powering Healthy Lives
STAGE 1	<p>This funding opportunity begins with an open invitation to submit brief letters of interest and optional sketches that illustrate the proposed visualization. Applicants are encouraged to be creative in how they present their ideas in this first stage. <i>(For more information, please see Visualizing Healthy Lives LOI Submission Guidelines.)</i></p> <p>The participatory review will result in a number of LOIs that will be considered to move forward to the full proposal phase. Components considered include geographic distribution, organizational size, and issue area. A portfolio of approximately 15 proposals will be chosen to advance to Stage 2.</p>	<p>This funding opportunity begins with an open invitation to submit ideas. Ideas may be submitted by either a brief letter of interest or video. Only the content of the proposed idea will be considered; videos and letters will not be judged for production value. <i>(For more information, please see the Powering Healthy Lives LOI Submission Guidelines.)</i></p> <p>The participatory review will result in a number of LOIs that will be considered to move forward to the full proposal phase. Components considered include geographic distribution, organizational size, and issue area. A portfolio of approximately 30 proposals will advance to Stage 2.</p>
STAGE 2	<p>Top ideas identified in Stage 1 will be invited to submit full proposals detailing the activities, budget, and impact of their projects.</p> <p>Full applications will be assessed by an external Expert Review Panel. Funding will be awarded to 3-5 projects, informed by the Expert Review Panel results with consideration given to geographic distribution, organizational size, and issue area. The total amount awarded, and the number of awards will depend on the quality of the applications received.</p>	<p>Top ideas identified in Stage 1 will be invited to submit full proposals detailing the activities, budget, and impact of their projects.</p> <p>Full applications will be assessed by an external Expert Review Panel. Funding will be awarded to 6-10 projects, informed by the Expert Review Panel results with consideration given to geographic distribution, organizational size, and issue area. The total amount awarded, and the number of awards will depend on the quality of the applications received.</p>

For more information on the scoring criteria for each funding opportunities, please review the full application scoring rubric for [Visualizing Healthy Lives](#) and [Powering Healthy Lives](#).

Where can I access copies of the informational webinars?

The Bringing Local Data to Life Webinar is available [here](#) and the Visualizing and Powering Healthy Lives Call for Ideas Informational Webinar is available [here](#).

How is intellectual property handled?

Applicants must be willing to grant RWJF and Urban a paid up, non-exclusive, irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide royalty-free license to reproduce, publish, republish, summarize, excerpt or otherwise use, and license others to use in print or electronic form (in whole, or in part, including in connection with derivative works), including in electronic databases or in any future form not yet discovered or implemented, the work produced from this project.

Do you need to have a data specialist on your staff to apply to these funding opportunities?

It is not a requirement to have a data specialist on staff in order to apply to these funding opportunities. We are encouraging collaborative proposals and looking for organizations that have data or data visualization expertise to think about how they might partner with community-based organizations or other service providers to generate very memorable and impactful data visualizations.

Is it true that community organizations should lead project? Can an academic institution serve as a collaborator?

Yes. We are asking both **nonprofits** (such as community organizers, service providers, or other nonprofit practitioners) or **public entities** (such as local health departments, transportation agencies, or city planners) to lead project proposals, but academic institutions may partner with these eligible lead applicants in order to submit collaborative proposals that can accomplish the funding goals (**note:** universities are ineligible to apply as lead applicants and may only act as a partner to one project proposal).

Does the proposal need to be a new project or will funding be considered for proposals that support ongoing projects that would be improved by using this data?

We welcome applicants to submit projects that are new in nature as well as projects that are ongoing as long as proposals demonstrate how the project will incorporate the USALEEP dataset into the ongoing initiative. There are no restrictions as to when the project has begun.

Is there a financial cap on an amount of funding to request? For example, is it highly unlikely that any one of the specified number of anticipated awards would receive \$500K or more?

The grant amount range is flexible, as the two funding opportunities are looking to fund a range projects, with \$1M in available grant funds for each initiative. It is important to make sure that the proposed budgets are reasonable within the given grant period and scope of work of the project, but there are no firm limits to what a proposal can request.

Visualizing Healthy Lives:

For Visualizing Healthy Lives, can a proposed project have components of both exploratory and explanatory visualizations?

As long as the applicant feels confident that they can justify the project idea in the application and that adding more to the proposal won't take away from the project idea, we allow a submission that includes both exploratory and explanatory components.

For Visualizing Healthy Lives, are you looking for a more local or regional audience or would you consider a larger national audience?

We are looking for a variety of geographies to be represented in the funded projects and are likely to select top project ideas that span each of each of the three geographies: local, regional, and national. We are looking for innovative designs and ideas that visualize the USALEEP dataset most powerfully and will consider proposals meet the selection criteria effectively, regardless of geographic scope.

Do funds have to be expended within the six-month period of performance for Visualizing Healthy Lives?

Yes. The budget would need to be expended and the proposed project would need to be completed within the period of performance, beginning on June 1, 2019 and ending on September 1, 2019.

What should the “impact” component of the LOI submission address?

The “impact” component of the LOI Submission will walk us through the intended outcome of what engaging with the proposed data visualization would be. This section should clarify how the proposed data visualization will inform and empower organizations engaged in the relationship between health and other outcomes. It also asks applicants to consider: Who is the target audience? Who is served/who benefits from using the visualization? How is this visualization designed to reach that audience?

For explanatory ideas, should they go into detail about the different datasets planned?

For the LOI phase, we are asking applications to highlight for us which external datasets the project proposal plans to incorporate, how the indicated additional data might provide a valuable comparison with USALEEP dataset, and what outcome is expected with the respective analyses.

What is the Visualizing Healthy Lives funding opportunity looking for in contrast to all this extensive functionality already available on the City Health Dashboard?

Visualizing Healthy Lives is looking to support data visualizations that jumpstart conversations about the causes of life expectancy disparities and how communities can address these disparities more effectively. While the City Health Dashboard does offer incredible functionality in exploring data at a granular level, this funding opportunity hopes to support data visualizations that advance effective calls to action, foster stronger collaborations, and support greater understanding of factors that potentially affect how well and how long we live.

Powering Healthy Lives:

What is the value of a video submission?

We recognize that different organizations have different resources or have different ways of communicating their work, so that is why we are accepting proposal idea submissions in multiple formats to accommodate the different level resources across organizations and communities. Please review the [Powering Healthy Lives LOI Submission Guidelines](#) for clarification on the preferred format of all video submissions.

Additionally, if for whatever reason you would like to submit the application in another language, please feel free to reach out to our team here and we will do our best to ensure that you will be able to submit your application in your language of choice.

For Powering Healthy Lives, are you open to projects focused on neighborhoods in large urban cities?

Absolutely. We wanted to make sure that we provided all three priority areas because we recognize that the intersections of how health outcomes impact communities vary across place. As long as the proposal identifies which priority area that your project aligns most closely with, we welcome project proposals that focus on neighborhoods in urban areas.

Do you prefer proposals that align with more than one key priority area or are you equally interested in proposals that focus on only one?

We are excited about all the respective priority areas, but ideas will be evaluated against just one self-identified priority area, indicated on the application documents. We recommend focusing on how a project proposal closely aligns with the applicant’s self-identified priority area but are open to reviewing proposals that include some information about how they would consider the other priority areas as well.

In regards to the “people” category, does that mean in order to plan projects we would need to do community polling, etc. or look to target the communities in the city that have the greatest social/economic barriers to health?

There are no specific guidelines for what “community informed” needs to entail. We are chiefly looking for applicants that can demonstrate that they are either led or informed by the expertise of communities who have systemically experienced social or economic barriers to health. A community poll is one way to approach this work but is by no means a requirement of this priority area.