Partnership for Resilient Communities

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Release Date: Monday, June 17, 2019
Proposal Due Date: Friday, July 19, 2019

About Institute for Sustainable Communities

Founded in 1991, the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) is an international non-profit working to unleash the power of people to transform their communities. Our mission is to help communities around the world address environmental, economic, and social challenges to build a better future shaped and shared by all. By sharing international best practices and experience, providing technical expertise and training, and building the capacity of local organizations, we are sparking creative solutions and lasting change. Learn more at www.sustain.org.

Partnership for Resilient Communities

In 2016, the JPB Foundation awarded ISC with a multi-year grant to pilot the Partnership for Resilient Communities (PRC) – with the goal of supporting community-based organizations (CBOs) to lead climate resilience-building initiatives that elevate the voices, priorities, and assets of the communities they represent. PRC partners directly with selected community-based organizations and their leaders, providing them with the knowledge and resources needed to channel their tenacity, experience, and wisdom toward community-identified climate resilience priorities and strategies.

Our Partnership for Resilient Communities partner organizations are led by people of color and serve historic, urban communities of color throughout the United States. These communities are often the most impacted by climate change and the least supported by climate resiliency initiatives. ISC provides capacity-building resources that bolster the leadership and influence of our PRC partners in the climate resilience field through strategic planning, policy promotion, green stormwater infrastructure and/or clean energy installations, and community education and engagement. Through the Partnership for Resilient Communities these partner organizations receive strategic, technical, and financial assistance; participate in peer-learning workshops; and engage in networking opportunities that connect them with the broader urban climate resilience field. In addition to these resources, ISC strategically shares our PRC partners' models, success stories, promising practices, and lessons learned with other U.S. communities, funders, institutions, and governments so that the urban climate resilience field can benefit from our work. During the three-year pilot phase, PRC partners influenced equitable resilience building work in Baltimore, Baltimore County, Detroit, Kansas City, Milwaukee, New Orleans, and Pittsburgh.

Focus on Historic Communities of Color

Communities of color are typically less often included in planning and decision-making related to both climate and community development solutions – including land use, transportation, and economic development as well as the management of air, water, and energy resources.[1] ISC believes that our strategies must explicitly address structural racism in the United States, as well as the socioeconomic inequality that undermines efforts to build strong communities of color that are prepared to respond to climate change.

Throughout the United States' history of systemic racism and racial discrimination, land use planning has purposely placed communities of color in close proximity to toxic emitters, built their neighborhoods on flood plains, and denied them financial investment and economic opportunities. As climate change progresses, it exacerbates these long-standing, systemic racial and economic inequities – leaving these communities at even greater risk and preventing them from attaining good health, financial security, and prosperity. We know with an ever-higher degree of certainty and concern that climate events and changes – such as poor air quality, extreme heat, frequent and intense storms, flooding, and drought – create and amplify a myriad of risks related to climate resilience, public health, and racial equity. Further, we know that the communities of color who disproportionately suffer from those risks are less equipped to manage or escape those risks due to long-term economic divestment and lack of resources.

We believe that when these affected populations have meaningful opportunities to be involved in decision-making, they more accurately identify the true, pressing needs of their communities and increase the likelihood that community-focused policies are effective and benefit all residents. When adequately prepared and supported, community-based organizations serve as leaders in their communities – accelerating policies and practices that simultaneously increase climate resilience (i.e. reducing climate pollution and/or increasing climate preparedness), improve public health, and advance racial equity. For those reasons, the Partnership for Resilient Communities intentionally works with community-based organizations that are led-by and serve historic communities of color and have the ability to lead the way in the face of climate change.

Purpose & Objectives

Following our successful program pilot, Institute for Sustainable Communities is launching a new round of the Partnership for Resilient Communities which will allow us to recruit three-four new partners to work with over the next three years; this round of the PRC will include a six-month planning phase and a two-year implementation phase. By bringing on additional partners, PRC will continue to prepare leaders of color to address climate solutions in their communities; broaden racial inclusion in the climate resilience field of practice; and fulfill ISC's mission to help communities address environmental, economic and social challenges.

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[1] Ellison, Charles. "Urban Planning Can't Happen without Black People in the Room -- Yet It Does." Public Square, A CNU Journal, 18 May 2017.

Through the Partnership for Resilient Communities we seek to:

- Develop a multi-year cohort of current and new PRC partners that will advance strategies for climate mitigation and adaptation at the local level.
- Provide capacity building, technical assistance, evaluation, communications and other needed support to the partners to help partners gain increased expertise, exposure and community-led solutions and policies for climate resilience.
- Host an annual in-person peer learning convening and bi-annual virtual convenings for PRC partners to build networks and share learning across sites, and receive capacity-building support.

Over the next three years, we expect to see the following outcomes:

1. Increased climate resilience, and economic investment and opportunities in eight-nine historic, urban communities of color across the United States;
2. Growth in (a) the number of organizations led by and serving people of color, and (b) leaders of color who are shaping, influencing, and leading climate-resilience projects, plans, policies, and practices in their communities and beyond; and
3. Greater awareness of the importance of community-led resilience strategies and the experiences and successes generated by the Partnership for Resilient Communities that are beginning to inform and influence the urban climate resilience field nationally.

In the long-term, we expect to help catalyze the exponential growth of community-based organizations and leaders of color who are shaping urban climate resilience strategies and initiatives - which will result in a noticeable shift in the field towards a practice that is more inclusive, equity-centered, and community-led.

Planning Phase

The six-month planning phase will include our current partners and six to eight new CBOs who are prepared to advocate for and implement equitable climate resilience projects. These planning phase grantees will have the opportunity to deepen their involvement and leadership in local climate resilience efforts, identify capacity building needs and receive technical assistance, and develop a multi-year implementation plan that includes a work plan for infrastructure projects, community engagement and education, policy advocacy and adoption and economic, and workforce development related to equitable climate resilience in their communities.

During the planning phase grantees will:

- Bring a team of four to five people to attend one in-person Peer-Learning event in winter 2020.
- Engage in other peer learning, technical assistance, and capacity-building opportunities to grow their leadership and influence in the climate resilience space.
- Participate in regular planning and project support calls.
- Develop a two-year implementation plan that will be used as a basis for implementation grant application.

Grant support can be used to cover staff time, travel, community engagement and education, supplies, and consultants. Grantees will be awarded **$25,000** for the six-month period.

Implementation Phase

The two-year implementation phase begins in spring 2020 and will consist of seven to nine existing and new PRC partners who will implement equitable climate resilience projects in their communities. Implementation will include clean energy and green infrastructure projects identified by the community, community engagement and education efforts, climate policy advocacy and adoption, and economic and workforce development for jobs in the climate field that can be filled by local residents.

During the implementation phase grantees will:
- Bring a team of four to five people to attend in-person peer-learning events in fall 2020 and fall 2021.
- Participate in ongoing monthly calls for project support and coaching for capacity building needs.
- Participate in additional educational or capacity building activities such as webinars, site visits, conferences, etc. as their budgets allow.
- Implement the work plan that was developed during the planning phase.
- Host a public ribbon-cutting ceremony upon completion of infrastructure projects.

Grant support can be used to cover staff time, travel, community engagement and education, supplies, equipment to implement green infrastructure and/or clean energy installation, and consultants. Selected grantees will be awarded up to $175,000 for the two-year implementation period.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the minimum qualifications to qualify for the grant:
- Must be a community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- Must have leadership of color in decision-making positions (executive leadership/board of directors) and staff who are representative of the community being served.
- Lead organization must be located in/serving an urban community of color that is impacted by climate change.
- Lead organization must have a minimum of three full-time staff members, or a strong leadership and implementation structure in place (i.e. partnership among multiple organizations).
- Lead organization's yearly operating budget must fall between $225,000 and $3,500,000
- *May use fiscal agent or sponsor for the planning grant but the FA fee is capped at 10percent by ISC

**Organizations based in Baltimore, Detroit, Milwaukee, New Orleans, and Kansas City are not eligible for this grant opportunity.*

Submission Instructions

Interested organizations must complete the full PRC request for proposals, and submit the full proposal package with required attachments to prcsubmissions@sustain.org by July 19, 2019 at 5:00 PM PST. We will make notifications on September 9th, 2019 or shortly after, with projects starting in late September. **Please limit the total length of your responses in the narrative section of the RFP to 10 pages. Proposal must have 1" margins and font size may be no smaller than 11pt. <u>Any proposal exceeding the 10 page maximum will be disqualified.</u>**

Submitted proposals must include the following attachments:
- IRS 501(c)(3) Non-profit Designation Letter.
- Most Recent 990.
- 3-Months of Board Approved Financial Statements.
- Organizational Chart (template provided, but can use your own).
- Board Approved Budget (template provided).
- Project Budget.

A strong proposal will:
- Demonstrate the need for your project.
- Focus on historic, urban communities of color.
- Effectively show support for the project from the target community.
- Describe a willingness to engage in partnerships to further the project.
- Reveal a strong understanding of the PRC's requirement to build the influence of your organization and your community.
- Indicate why and how your organization is best suited to execute the grant.

Special consideration will be given to proposals with strategies that foster economic opportunity in the communities served.

Applicants will be disqualified for the following reasons:
- Proposal exceeds the 10 page limit.
- Proposal is missing attachments.
- Applicant is not a community-based organization.
- Organization has no leadership of color.
- Organization does not serve people of color.
- Organization does not serve an urban community or neighborhood.
- Project is not focused on green infrastructure or clean energy.

Definitions

Resilience

Resilience refers to the capacity of a community to prevent, withstand, respond to and recover from extreme weather events. This includes plans, approaches and resources that help communities mitigate and adapt to issues of climate change by integrating economic, social, and environmental aspects of resilience building and prioritizing racial equity as a necessary outcome.

Influence Building

Defined as an organization, its associated leadership, and its target community's ability to create and advance policies, plans and initiatives that benefit the community they serve.

Community Education

Community education includes all organization-led and partnership initiatives to educate residents about climate change, what it means to be a resilient community, and how that is related to challenges and issues your community is facing. Education activities should educate residents about your project and equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to the climate resilience work in your community as it relates to your PRC project and more broadly. Community education actions can include but not be limited to: community meetings, design workshops, town halls, presentations, the development and dissemination of promotional materials, and collateral, etc.

Infrastructure Improvements

We are seeking organizations that will develop and maintain accessible, quality infrastructure improvements on public spaces and on private property to the degree there is a broader community benefit as a result of such improvements and the improvements are made available for teaching and education opportunities and to highlight the work of the PRC.. Examples include the installation of green stormwater infrastructure (reuse and to mitigate flooding), clean energy and other renewable energy solutions. Beautification investments are allowed to compliment resilience infrastructure. Examples of spaces and structures include, but are not limited to: parks and open space, vacant land, community centers and faith-based institutions.

Leadership of Color

This RFP defines leadership of color as an organization where at least 50percent of the leaders and staff with decision-making power are people of color that are representative of the community being served. For our purposes, leadership of color includes a mix of individuals serving as Board Members, Executive Director, CEO, and Department Heads (i.e., Communications, Finance, Programming).

Racial Equity

Racial equity describes (1) an outcome that is achieved when race is no longer a predictor of climate risk, community vulnerability, health disparities, economic outcomes and access, and barriers to employment and education and other quality of life indicators; and (2) a process that ensures those most impacted by structural racism have full access to and involvement in the planning and implementation of

community projects, institutional policies, and environmental practices that impact their lives. A racially equitable process also works toward long-term sustainability grounded by a community that can fully participate in and benefit from the economic, educational and employment opportunities of the new green economy.

Community-Based Organizations
Non-profit organizations that are either 501(c)(3) or have a fiscal agent that is a 501(c)(3) and that are working on equitable community develop and that committed to improving the climate resilience and driving racial equity in their local, urban community. The organization should be based in the community-served and have strong connections with local residents, other community organizations, small locally owned businesses and other community stakeholders. Its leadership and staff should include residents of said community and/or have deep connection to and experience with like communities in other urban settings. Additionally, local residents should be involved in identifying priorities, implementing projects, and evaluating results for the organization.

Economic Opportunity
Economic opportunity refers to a PRC project that fosters the ability of residents and others that meet the similar demographic of neighborhood residents and community stakeholders to access the educational, employment and financial resources needed (1) to attain individual economic stability and mobility, and (2) sustain the economic health and power of their local community. Examples of economic opportunity strategies include, but are not limited to: high quality job training that leads to employment opportunities, procurement and contracting activities, education about job and training opportunities in the "climate, sustainability, environmental" sectors, etc.

Gentrification
We define gentrification as a process of development that focuses on creating housing, commercial and mixed-use properties that serve wealthy residents from outside of the community, while simultaneously pushing out or displacing longtime residents due to unaffordability, lack of access and discrimination. (See: displacement definition)

Displacement
Displacement occurs when any household is forced to move from its residence or unable to move into a residence due to changes in conditions to their housing or neighborhood that are outside of their control. It also includes "optional displacement" - which describes conditions where residents choose to move in order to access quality education and a safer residence that doesn't exist in their current community. These conditions can include changes associated with gentrification such as increased housing costs and rising area median income. (See: gentrification definition)

Capacity-Building
Capacity-building includes the support ISC will provide to strengthen partner organizations and their leaderships' ability to catalyze sustainable, urban climate resilience strategies. Under this grant,

capacity-building includes financial support, strategic and technical assistance, peer-learning and networking, and other needed resources as determined by the PRC partner and ISC.

Cultural Competence
Cultural competence is a framework used to build trust, respect, diversity, inclusion, equity, and justice through an acknowledgement and understanding of cultural differences. We understand that cultural competence requires co-learning with and from the communities in which we work, introspection, critical self-reflection, and humility in that we do not have all of the answers. Cultural competence does not assume that culture is monolithic, but rather encourages a life-long process of growth and learning through power-balanced relationships that ensure the voices, experiences, and needs of historically marginalized people are met.

RFP Informational Webinar

An informational webinar on the Partnership for Resilient Communities RFP will be held on July 2, 2019 at 1:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. This webinar is an opportunity to learn more about the Partnership for Resilient Communities and key elements of the RFP, and ask questions during our interactive Q&A. The webinar is capped at 1,000 registrants. We encourage participants to register and login to the webinar early, and watch together with colleagues, if possible. A recording of the webinar will be sent to all registrants. Register for the webinar here.

For Additional Information

Any questions regarding this request for proposals and the Partnership for Resilient Communities will be answered after our informational webinar on July 2nd. After the webinar please contact Camille Johnson at cjohnson@sustain.org for additional information or questions.

Partnership for Resilient Communities

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NEW PARTNERS

Contact Information
Contact Person (First Name, Last Name)
Title
Email
Phone

Organizational Information
Legal Name
DBA (if applicable)
Organization Legal Designation (i.e., nonprofit, LLC, S Corp, Corporation)
Focus Areas
Street Address
City
State
Zip Code
Email
Phone
Website

Annual Budget
Fiscal Sponsor or Fiduciary (*if applicable*)

Project Location (City, State)
Project Title

Leadership & Staff
Are the key leaders and decision-makers in your organization People of Color? Yes or No. *If yes, please share the names and positions of your organization's leadership below (ex. Directors of communications, finance, executive leadership, board members etc.).*

Board by Race/Ethnicity (% that adds up to 100)
Board by Gender (% that adds up 100)
Total # of Board Members

Staff by Race/Ethnicity (% that adds up to 100)
Staff by Gender (% that adds up to 100)
Total # of Staff Members

Organization Mission & History
(500 words or less)

Project Narrative

1. Community Background/Conditions

Please describe the community that your organization serves - including its historical background, racial/ethnic and socioeconomic characteristics. Include where your project is located and the resilience issues affecting the community you serve (i.e., flooding, extreme weather, drought, power outages, etc.), the root cause and underlying issues (ex., discriminatory land use planning and/or lack of resources), and the community strengths and resources you will build upon to solve this challenge.

2. Total Project Budget
   a. **Amount**
   b. **Additional Funding**

   Please list any current or potential funders for your proposed project. Include amounts, if available.

3. Project Description

Describe the project you are proposing; how it will address the causes of climate vulnerability; and how it will increase quality of life, climate resilience, and economic investment and opportunities in your community. What makes your organization uniquely situated to successfully implement this project? Include any current or potential partners and stakeholders you will work with, and the value those partnerships will bring to your planning and implementation process.

4. Goals & Projected Outcomes

Please describe 2 or 3 goals you have for this project, the outcomes you hope to achieve, and how these goals will foster long-term impact.

5. Infrastructure Improvements

What green infrastructure and/or clean energy infrastructure improvements will be implemented as a result of this project. Include the site where the improvement will be located; how the improvements will address the resilience needs of your community; and your plans for ongoing operation and maintenance of the improvement.

6. Community Engagement and Education

How will your organization engage your target community in the planning and implementation of this project? Include any past experience your organization has with community engagement; existing community relationships your organization has that can be leveraged or show capacity in this area; and how your organization will foster intergenerational participation by engaging youth, adults and older adults.

7. Influence Building

While these funds cannot be used for lobbying, making an impact on climate resilience requires building community influence and leadership to advance climate policy solutions. Please share how this project will elevate the voices of residents in your target community, and build the capacity of residents and your staff to push climate policy solutions and influence decisions that impact the community you serve.

8. Project Staff & Cultural Competency
Please list the names, positions, and qualifications of the organizational leadership and project implementation team. Include any relevant skills or work experience these individuals have that display cultural competence and an understanding of racial equity.

9. Gentrification and Displacement
Please describe the economic development activity in or in near proximity to your community, and how those activities may foster gentrification and/or displacement. Include any anti-displacement activities your organization is involved in, and your plans to prevent or mitigate displacement of the residents you intend to serve through this project.

10. Capacity Building and Planning
This grant is for a 6 month planning process. Please explain how you will use this time to further develop your project approach, including the capacities your organization needs for long-term success. Include the types of support you will need to further develop your project to successful implementation. Activities could include but are not limited to: fundraising, marketing and communications, strategic partnership building, climate resilience education, policy and legislative advocacy, community development planning, and other actions furthering the development of project concepts.

ATTACHMENTS
IRS 501(c)(3) Non-profit Designation Letter
Most Recent 990
3-Months of Board Approved Financial Statements
Organizational Chart
Board Approved Budget
Project Budget

Commitment
*Each participating community-based organization must commit to the following actions. By submitting a proposal, you are indicating that you are aware of, and commit to, the values of ISC and the PRC described below, as well as the following actions:
- *Participating in a baseline capacity assessment*
- *Participate/provide information for program evaluation*
- *Assigning a project lead to serve as primary point of contact to ISC and oversee the planning process*
- *Provide progress reports*
- *Identifying and tracking project impacts and outcomes*
- *Participating in regular check-in calls*
- *Participating in in-person and virtual peer learning workshops*
- *Participating in activities to share your experiences, lessons learned, tools and approaches you develop (i.e. attending interviews, sharing pictures or stories, etc.)*
- *Developing a project implementation plan*

*ISC's mission is to help communities around the world address environmental, economic and social challenges to build a better future shaped and shared by all - with the objective of helping community-based organizations and networks representing vulnerable areas in the U.S. [...] pilot and scale climate solutions characterized by equity, inclusion and economic opportunity.

a. Personnel	Planning Phase		TOTAL
Name or Title	Level of Effort (%	cost	
example: engagement coordinator	*0.25 FTE*	$12,500	$12,500
			0
			0
			0
			0
			0
			0
Subtotal Personnel:		0	0
b. Fringe Benefits	rate	cost	
example: engagement coordinator	20%	$2,500	$2,500
			0
			0
			0
			0
			0
			0
Subtotal Fringe:		0	0
c. Consultants/Subcontracts			
Note: expenses in the category are excluded from indirect calculation		$750	$750
			0
			0
			0
Subtotal Consultants/ Subcontracts:		0	0
d. Other costs (please itemize)			
			0
			0
			0
			0
			0
			0
Subtotal Other:		0	0
e. Indirect Charges*			
example: 10% of a+b+d		$250	$250
		$0	$0
		$0	$0
Subtotal Indirect:		$0	$0
Total (sum a-e)		$0	**$0** Total Requested

* Indirect Program Costs are those related to the overall operations of the organization carrying out the proposed activities. Indirect Program Costs cannot exceed 10% of the Direct Program Costs (excluding consultants/subcontracts).

Partnership for Resilient Communities – Organizational Chart Template
**Please complete this organizational chart template, including the full name and title of each person in your organization.