

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Release Date: Monday, July 18, 2022

Proposal Due Date: Sunday, August 28, 2022

Partnership for Resilient Communities - Overview

[The Institute for Sustainable Communities](#)' Partnership for Resilient Communities (PRC) program, funded by the JPB Foundation, supports community-based organizations (CBOs) to lead climate resilience-building initiatives that elevate the voices, priorities, and assets of the communities they represent. Through the PRC program, ISC partners directly with selected community-based organizations and their leaders, providing them with the knowledge and resources to channel their tenacity, experience, and wisdom toward community-identified climate resilience priorities and strategies.

PRC partner organizations are led by people of color and serve historic, urban communities of color throughout the United States. These communities are most impacted by climate change and 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, building pathways to green stormwater infrastructure and/or clean energy installations, and community education and engagement.

PRC partner organizations receive 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 shares our PRC partners' models, success stories, promising practices, and lessons learned in working with other U.S. communities, funders, institutions, and governments so that the urban climate resilience field can benefit from our work. During the initial three-year implementation phase, PRC partners influenced equitable resilience building work in Baltimore, MD; The Bronx, NY; Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; El Paso, TX; Milwaukee, WI; New Orleans, LA; Oakland, CA; Richmond, VA and Santa Rosa, CA.

Purpose & Objectives

The Institute for Sustainable Communities is launching the opportunity to join a new cohort of Partnership for Resilient Communities over the next three years. This round of the PRC will include:

- 1) a five-month planning phase
- 2) a two-year implementation phase

Through the Partnership for Resilient Communities we seek to:

- Develop a multi-year cohort of new and renewed PRC partners that will advance strategies for climate mitigation and adaptation at the local level including but not limited to: green stormwater infrastructure, clean energy workforce development, solar resilience hub development or expansion, and energy justice.
- Provide capacity building, technical assistance, evaluation, communications and other needed support so partners gain increased expertise, exposure and arrive at 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, ISC will support PRC partners in achieving the following outcomes:

- Increased climate resilience, and economic investment and opportunities in up to twelve urban communities of color across the United States.
- Growth in the number of organizations led by and serving people of color, and leaders of color who are shaping, influencing, and leading climate-resilience projects, plans, policies, and practices in their communities.
- Greater awareness of the importance of community-led resilience strategies to inform and influence the urban climate resilience field nationally.

Planning Phase

The five-month planning phase, starting shortly after award notifications on October 17, 2022, will include our current partners and approximately four to six new CBOs who are prepared to advocate for and implement equitable climate resilience projects. These planning phase grantees will deepen their involvement in local climate resilience efforts, identify capacity-building needs, 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:

- Select a team of four to five people to attend one, in-person peer-learning event in early 2023.
- Engage in other peer learning, technical assistance, and capacity-building opportunities. Participate in regular planning and project support calls.
- Develop a two-year implementation plan that will serve as a basis for an implementation grant application.

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

Implementation Phase

The two-year implementation phase begins in Spring 2023 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, energy justice, 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:

- Select a team of four to five people to attend in-person and virtual peer-learning events
- Participate in ongoing quarterly calls for project support and coaching.
- 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.

Selected grantees from the Planning Phase will be awarded up to **\$175,000** for the two-year implementation period.

Grant support may be used to cover staff time, travel, community engagement and education, supplies, equipment to implement green infrastructure and/or clean energy installation, and consultants.

How to Apply:

RFP Informational Webinar

An informational webinar on the Partnership for Resilient Communities RFP will be held on **August 2, 2022 at 1:00 PM EDT**. Attendance is strongly encouraged. 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 available [here](#).

[Register for the webinar here](#).

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following minimum qualifications to qualify for the grant:

- Must be a community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. (Coalitions of 501(c)(3) organizations may also apply, as long as the eligibility criteria is met.)
- Must have leadership of color in decision-making positions (executive leadership/board of directors) and staff who are representative of the community being served.

- 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 annual 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 10% by ISC

Submission Instructions

Interested organizations must complete the full and submit the full proposal package [via this Survey Monkey link](#) by **August 28, 2022 at 5:00 PM PDT**. We will announce awardees by October 17th, 2022 or shortly after, with planning phase projects starting thereafter. The template to develop proposals can be found [here](#). We encourage organizations to use the template to fill out your proposal so that you will only need to copy and paste the text into the SurveyMonkey proposal application form. **Please limit the total length of your responses in the narrative section of the proposal to 10 pages.**

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.

Submitted proposals must include the following attachments:

- IRS 501(c)(3) Non-profit Designation Letter.
- Most Recent 990.
- Three months of Board-Approved Financial Statements.
- Organizational Chart (template provided, but can use your own).
- Board-Approved Budget
- Project Budget (template provided).

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 support communities around the world in addressing 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.

For Additional Information

Any questions regarding this request for proposals and the Partnership for Resilient Communities will be answered after our informational webinar on August 2, 2022. After the webinar please contact the PRC Team via prcsubmission@sustain.org for additional information or questions.