

# Partnership for Resilient Communities

## Request for Proposals

Release Date: Thursday, June 30, 2016

Proposal Due Date: Friday, July 29, 2016, 5PM ET

### Funding Opportunity

The Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) is seeking to support community-based organizations (CBOs) through a combination of technical, strategic and financial assistance to implement projects that will advance local resilience. ISC is requesting proposals from organizations that are working within the following cities with a goal of building healthier, stronger, more equitable and resilient communities:

Baltimore, MD	Lexington-Fayette, KY
Buffalo, NY	Memphis, TN
Charlotte, NC	Omaha, NE
Cleveland, OH	Pittsburgh, PA
Des Moines, IA	Providence, RI
Detroit, MI	Sacramento, CA
Fresno, CA	St. Louis, MO
Henderson, NV	St. Paul, MN
Houston, TX	Salt Lake City, UT
Kansas City, MO	Wichita, KS
Knoxville, TN	

ISC will make grants of up to \$250,000 to 2-3 CBOs that are working on the ground in the above cities.

Funding will support innovative, community-driven projects in one of the following areas:

- Projects that seek to increase energy efficiency and/or the deployment of renewable energy solutions in low-income communities. This includes efforts to improve the affordability and accessibility of renewable energy sources, community-shared renewable energy projects, solar with storage for community resilience, energy efficiency and weatherization initiatives that will benefit those most in need.
- Projects that address stormwater management, urban flooding and vulnerability in low-income neighborhoods through the use of green infrastructure and the enhancement of parks and open space.

Proposed projects must result in tangible outcomes and improved community resilience and greater social equity. The project period is expected to be Oct 2016–Mar 2019 (30 months). Matching funds are not required, however it is anticipated that CBOs may need to secure additional funding from other sources in order to complete their proposed projects.

Across the country, a range of economic and environmental disruptions, from more frequent and intense weather events to job losses and housing foreclosures, are wreaking havoc on infrastructure, economies and people. Efforts to build community resilience to climate related disturbances – to implement projects and

strategies that enable communities to “bounce forward” to improved environmental, social and economic health and wellbeing – are emerging across the country. ISC believes that CBOs have a critical role to play in planning and implementing such projects, ensuring that they rooted in a community definition of resilience and that they meet the needs of residents, especially the most vulnerable members of our communities. Through this project, ISC seeks to support and strengthen the participating CBOs in shaping and leading community resilience-building initiatives through environmental projects.

ISC will select 2-3 CBOs and support them to influence and lead local resilience initiatives so that they are “shaped and shared by all” within the community. We will place particular emphasis on CBOs that represent and/or serve low-income or historically vulnerable and underinvested populations and communities. Our broader intention is to demonstrate how CBO leadership and genuine community engagement can transform the conventional approach to resilience-building in cities across the country.

The selected CBOs will complete their climate resilience projects and, at the same time, build their organizational capacity to work on community resilience. Through this program, CBOs will participate in a baseline capacity assessment, receive customized technical assistance, access local and national expertise, and get valuable opportunities to learn from and share with peers working in other communities.

Applications are due by 5pm ET Friday July 29, 2016. ISC anticipates that selection will be completed by August 31, 2016.

### **Eligible Recipients and Activities**

Applicants must be a Community-Based organization (CBO) with 501c3 status, based in one of the cities listed above. For the purposes of this project, we are defining CBO as place-based organizations working to improve health, environment, economy and quality of life in the community or city in which they are based. If you are unsure whether you meet ISC’s definition of CBO, please email us prior to submitting a proposal.

Grant funds may be used for all necessary activities and tasks related to the project, including but not limited to:

- Staff time;
- Consultants and contractors;
- Community engagement activities, including hard and soft costs; and,
- Implementation costs (including materials, permits, etc.).

### **Requirements**

Each participating CBO must commit to the following:

- Hosting a kick-off meeting/design session held before the end of October 2016\*
- Participating in a baseline capacity assessment\*
- Assigning a project director to serve as the primary point of contact to ISC and will oversee all aspects of the grant award and project
- Providing 6-month progress reports and annual contract review (budgets will be approved on an annual basis)
- Identifying and tracking project impacts and outcomes
- Participating in monthly check-in calls
- Traveling to and participating in annual workshops (1 per year for 3 years)
- Sharing your experiences, lessons learned, tools and approaches you develop

- Implementing a stakeholder engagement plan
- Engaging your Board of Directors
- Coordinating and communicating with local government

\*Note: The design session and baseline assessment must be completed by Oct 30, 2016. This design session will produce the final workplan for the sub-agreement. Costs related to the design session are eligible for reimbursement and can be included in the budget.

**TO APPLY:** Follow [this link](#)

Successful applicants will:

- Demonstrate their organizational commitment to community resilience and advancing the interests of low-income people/communities and communities of color;
- Implement a project that is in one of the two focus areas described earlier: Projects that seek to increase energy efficiency and/or the deployment of renewable energy solutions, or projects that address stormwater management, urban flooding and vulnerability, in low-income neighborhoods.
- Demonstrate how the project will build community resilience, enhance climate adaptation, advance social equity and increase social capital;
- Demonstrate how and why the proposed project is aligned with community goals (please note if this project has been identified as a priority in previous planning efforts);
- Feature engagement strategies that ensure that community members will shape and enhance the project and its outcomes;
- Demonstrate how the CBO will enhance its capacity and effectiveness with regard to community resilience, and improve collaboration with local government partners, by participating in this program;
- Have a strong plan to monitor and evaluate your work including, benchmarks and metrics;
- Demonstrate a plan for long-term project ownership and maintenance, if applicable; and
- Demonstrate engagement and support from local and regional partners and government, as applicable. Letters of support from elected officials and partnering agencies are encouraged.

### Questions?

Questions about this opportunity should be submitted to Debra Perry by July 25 at [dperry@iscvt.org](mailto:dperry@iscvt.org)/802-557-0245.

### About the Institute for Sustainable Communities

An international nonprofit organization, the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) has 25 years of practical experience working with local leaders to accelerate climate change and sustainability solutions. ISC's programs are designed to facilitate peer learning and engagement among local leaders charged with the work of making their communities more sustainable. ISC has led more than 100 projects in 30 countries, and currently works in the United States and Asia. Learn more at [www.iscvt.org](http://www.iscvt.org)