

2020 Global Ideas for U.S Solutions Call for Proposals:
Cities Taking Action to Address Health, Equity, and Climate Change

Frequently Asked Questions

UPDATED April 24, 2020

New/Updated questions appear in brown font

Please note: The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) below pertain specifically to the Cities Taking Action to Address Health, Equity, and Climate Change Call for Proposals (CFP).

To learn more about this RWJF funding opportunity, please view:

- [CFP funding opportunity brochure](#)
- [C40 Solutions document](#)
- The information and instructions provided in [RWJF's online application portal](#) (also found in the [sample proposal](#) provided under the 'Key Materials' section of the funding opportunity page)
- [Budget Preparation Guidelines](#) documents found in the Resources section of [MyRWJF](#) and
- RWJF's [general grant making guidelines](#).

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QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CFP) CONTENT

Q1. Will there be an applicant webinar? (updated 4/24/20)

An applicant webinar was held on April 9. The webinar [recording](#) and link to the PDF of the [slide deck](#) are available in the Resources section of your application within MyRWJF.

Q2. Does RWJF have any priority countries and/or cities where you want proposals to focus?

For this call for proposals, we are dedicated to learning from and building relationships with those who are engaged in effective efforts to overcome critical health, equity, and climate change challenges in the U.S. by adopting or adapting ideas and solutions from cities outside the U.S. We are not prioritizing any particular non-U.S. cities as the source of ideas/solutions or any particular U.S. cities where the applicant proposes to work.

Q3. Can the award be focused on a particular community or neighborhood within a city?
(added 4/24/20)

This CFP is looking for change at the city level. If working in a particular community or neighborhood can get to a city-level change within that 30-month grant period, then explain that clearly in your proposal narrative.

Q4. How essential is it to have already established the international connection? What is the expected level of collaboration with international partners? Do we have to be actively collaborating internationally at the time of the application or can we draw from our past experiences?

We encourage proposals from both U.S.-based applicants to adopt or adapt a successful approach from outside the U.S., and from non-U.S.-based applicants with a successful approach that could work in the United States. We encourage submissions from teams that include both U.S.-based and non-U.S.-based members. Ideally, applicants in the U.S. will have an authentic connection with the non-U.S. city (directly or through a global city network) that is the source of the successful approach. However, the level of collaboration ultimately depends on the project or program being proposed and the roles of each partner.

- Q5. How will RWJF evaluate the innovative nature of the project from abroad that we are bringing to a U.S. city? Does the approach taken from the city outside the U.S. have to have been implemented as a permanent policy or design change? (added 4/24/20)**

We are not evaluating the innovative nature of the solution that's brought over from the non-U.S. city(ies). We are looking at solutions that have been tried and tested in non-U.S. cities that can be adopted or adapted inside the U.S. Please refer to the [C40 solutions](#) resources for examples of the approaches and innovations we are looking for.

- Q6. Are you ONLY interested in approaches that are inspired by or imported from other countries? Will you ONLY consider programs or projects that have implications for U.S. cities?**

The answer to both questions is yes. The *Global Ideas for U.S. Solutions* funding opportunity is meant to bring in learning from outside the U.S. to help address health, equity, and climate change in the U.S. If your idea does not fit these criteria, please consider RWJF's other [Funding Opportunities](#).

- Q7. Would an idea that was originally developed in the U.S. but applied in a different way by another city outside the U.S. qualify for this CFP?**

The idea or approach you are proposing must adapt or adopt a successful approach from outside the U.S. to be eligible for this CFP. If the approach you are proposing was originally developed in the U.S. but has been expanded, improved, or otherwise adapted to make it distinctive from what's currently being done in the U.S., you should explain that in your proposal.

- Q8. Can you replicate a program that has been implemented in a city outside the U.S. but has also already been implemented in a U.S. city? (added 4/24/20)**

We are interested in bringing new ideas and models from abroad into the U.S. so your proposal should explain how the particular program you would like to implement will be different from what's already being done or practiced in the U.S. For example, perhaps the approach from the city outside the U.S. has additional components or policy measures that would be new to U.S. practices.

- Q9. Does capacity for replicability in the U.S. strengthen the application? (added 4/24/20)**

Capacity to successfully implement the proposed approach and potential for replicability definitely strengthens a proposal, but the review process does not specifically award points for the replicability of a proposed approach.

- Q10. Are you looking for proposals that help mitigate the effects of climate change in a city (make it more resilient to climate change), or proposals that help solve the problem of climate change itself (make a city more carbon-neutral)? (added 4/24/20)**

Proposals focused on climate change adaptation, sequestration, or mitigation are all eligible. The “Purpose” section of the CFP notes: “Through this funding opportunity, RWJF seeks to promote learning through action in U.S. cities based on successful approaches from cities outside the United States that address the intertwined issues of health, equity, and climate change adaptation, sequestration, or mitigation.”

- Q11. Can we focus on health more generally, including things like social capital or blue zones, ways of thinking about collective health, or does our focus need to be more narrowly defined?** *(added 4/24/20)*

Your approach needs to be defined in terms of health, equity, and climate change within your city(ies). Refer to the to the C40 Solutions document for examples of the kinds of projects that we're looking to fund. Tell us how your solution, the intervention that you're importing from a non-U.S. city and implementing in a U.S. city, will affect health, equity, and climate change.

- Q12. Will you consider proposals that address not only health and climate change but also address COVID-19 economic recovery? Are proposals that address COVID-19 preferred?** *(added 4/24/20)*

Yes, we will consider and welcome proposals that include efforts around COVID-19. However, the emphasis should be on the aspects of the CFP as outlined in the eligibility and selection criteria sections. If the proposed approach will impact climate change and health equity, while also addressing COVID-19 and related disease in your city, then please include that information in your proposal. However, there is no preference given to proposals that address COVID-19.

- Q13. Are you interested in efforts that address the health inequities that will occur as cities move away a carbon based economy to a renewable sustainable economy? Are efforts that support health equity in an equitable and just transition fundable?** *(added 4/24/20)*

We are looking to fund the “action.” Action should happen within your grant period. We realize that some of the planned actions may extend beyond the 30-month grant period. That's fine and you can tell us about that. But there must be some action within the grant period. Your proposal should describe what the action is and how it will be implemented during the grant period and post-grant period.

- Q14. To what extent must our proposed project be based on a single on approach or city from outside the U.S.? Would our proposal based on an amalgamation of multiple impactful programs from outside the U.S. be in keeping with what RWJF plans to consider?** *(added 4/7/20)*

The Global Ideas for U.S. Solutions funding opportunity is meant to bring in learning from outside the U.S. to help address health, equity, and climate change in the U.S. If the successful approach that you propose to adopt or adapt in the U.S. is based on a blend of different non-U.S. cities’ work, we would be interested in knowing on which successful approaches from which non-U.S. cities your proposal is based, and why and how you feel this blend of approaches will work in the U.S.

- Q15. We envision cross-pollination between U.S. and non-U.S. cities going both ways, not just from the non-U.S. city to the U.S. city. Can we propose a partnership between a U.S. and a non-U.S. city where each assists the other in adopting a climate change strategy that has a positive impact on health and social equity? Or are we only able to propose a project that involves the U.S. city adopting a strategy? In other words, are the two able to help each other, or is it only a one-way street?** *(added 4/24/20)*

There is nothing in our eligibility criteria that says this is not eligible, so, yes, it is eligible.

Q16. Can you comment on the level of fidelity you are looking for in applying the non-U.S. “successful approach” in a U.S. city? (added 4/24/20)

No. We want you to speak to the fidelity of the model you are using, what innovations you are adopting or adapting, what you will be doing, and how you will measure success.

Q17. How can U.S. applicants learn more about what is working in international cities?

C40 has compiled examples of successful approaches taken in cities outside the U.S., available [here](#). These examples focus on:

- Action at the city level
- Actions that can happen in a two-year time frame
- Actions that are relevant to health equity
- Actions that include community engagement and leadership
- Actions that include some evidence of impact

Additionally, in 2018 RWJF commissioned Climate Interactive to develop 10 case studies of global examples of “multisolving” to address health and climate changes. “Multisolving” initiatives deliver improvements in multiple sectors with the same investment of time, money, or political will, thus saving money, meeting multiple needs, and empowering diverse constituencies. These examples include various geographies (not just cities) but still may be helpful as a reference. The report can be accessed here: <https://www.climateinteractive.org/programs/multisolving/multisolving-at-the-intersection-of-health-and-climate/>.

Applicants are encouraged to consider these solutions for ideas and inspiration; however, applicants are *not limited* to these solutions and may identify other relevant models/approaches from cities outside the U.S. that have demonstrated success and impact. Please note that applications that propose these solutions will not be given preferential treatment in the review and selection process.

Q18. Aside from what is mentioned in the CFP, does RWJF have any other preferences? For example: applicant organization type (city vs. university, etc.); U.S.-based applicant vs. international applicant; expertise of the organization/team (climate change vs. health vs. other); ability to replicate; city size; number of cities; mitigation vs. adaptation; integrating COVID-19; short-term results vs. instigating long-term change; source of non-US approach in terms of geographic region? (added 4/24/20)

If it is not stated in the CFP selection or eligibility criteria, then we do not have a preference. We want approaches that work for your city’s unique situation and look forward to hearing what that may be.

Q19. What evidence are you using to determine that something is a “successful approach from a city outside the U.S.”?

We expect the evidence to vary depending on the approach, where and how it’s being implemented, and the overall life cycle of the proposed approach. We encourage applicants to identify any indicators or impact measures related to health, equity, and climate change that are currently available for the non-U.S. approach you are adapting/adopting -- as well as anticipated

impact measures for your work in a U.S. city(ies). For reference, C40 has compiled examples of successful approaches taken in cities outside the U.S., which include some evidence of impact; available [here](#).

Q20. What does “active participation in a learning network” mean? What are the learning network activities? Who is leading the learning network?

Grantees will be required to participate in a learning network with fellow grantees, RWJF staff, and other partners engaged in this work. [C40 Cities](#), with support from RWJF, will help organize and lead learning activities with grantees, including two peer-learning workshops—one at the start of the grant cycle to be held outside the U.S. and one at the end of the grant cycle to be held within the U.S.—and quarterly webinars. Active participation means cities learning from each other. We expect grantees to be involved in co-creating the workshop and webinar agendas and engage in presentations and guided facilitation as appropriate.

We expect that all grantees will have the same start and end dates to facilitate learning along the way, which will enable all participants to learn from each other as the work progresses. This will also create opportunities to tell stories about the work of the U.S. cities individually and as a collective.

Q21. What will the peer-learning workshops cover? Where will the peer-learning workshops take place?

The peer-learning workshop at the beginning of the grant cycle (early 2021, date to be determined with grantees) will take place in a city outside the U.S. that offers learning opportunities related to the intersection of health, equity, and climate change. The peer-learning workshop in 2022 (date to be determined with grantees) will take place in a city within the U.S., location to be determined. The locations and content of each workshop will be determined with guidance from C40, based on the grantees’ areas of focus and input from grantees. The first workshop will likely include site visit(s) of relevance to grantees’ work. (See Q58 for information on how to budget for the peer learning workshops).

Q22. How detailed must our proposal be? Is it enough to describe the overall intention/goal in our proposal, but use the project itself to determine the specific policies or plans that would work best for the cities involved? *(added 4/24/20)*

This CFP highlights the importance of authentic community engagement and is purposefully not prescriptive in terms of deliverables or project milestones – we look to applicants to tell us what might work for their city(ies). If you authentically incorporate community engagement, we suspect that you won’t be able to provide every detail in the proposal, and if you do, then perhaps you are not engaging in authentic community engagement. Your proposal should describe the overall intention and goal(s) and how you plan to get there by adapting or adopting a successful approach from a non-U.S. city(ies).

Q23. How much detail do you want or expect in our proposal for communications and dissemination activities — especially given that some of these activities may depend on the final plan we develop with community input, or could be based on the learning network activities that this funding will support?

We welcome your preliminary thinking about possible activities and any related communications/dissemination assets your organization/team may have, but we do not expect a full plan.

Q24. The CFP asks applicants to address “the possible ways the work may be sustained after the grant period.” Can you say more RWJF’s expectations around this?

Grant funding can help incubate and nurture new ideas and programs but in the long term, as ideas mature and scale, it's often necessary to diversify funding support. In this CFP, long term, funding sustainability is not a specific selection criterion, however we are interested in learning about any ideas or plans you may have for how, if successful, the work could be sustained after the grant period ends. This may involve changing policy, leveraging capital from market rate or social investors, bringing new funding partners to the table, etc.

Q25. The CFP mentions global city networks — can you provide some examples?

Global city networks are organizations that work with groups of cities in and outside of the U.S. Examples include ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, Global Lead City on Sustainable Procurement, International City/County Management Association (ICMA), World Mayors Council on Climate Change, etc. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list.

Q26. What is a key collaborating/partner organization? Are applicants required to have key collaborating/partner organizations?

Key collaborating/partner organizations are any organization (government-related, community-based, consulting agency with content expertise, etc.) whose work/involvement is essential to your proposed project. These organizations should be identified in your proposal narrative (and also in the budget narrative as applicable).

Q27. How does RWJF define “health equity”?

In a report designed to build consensus around the meaning of health equity, RWJF provides the following definition: “Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.”

The definitions and concepts presented in the report are based on widely recognized ethical and human rights principles and supported by knowledge from health sciences.

See the report at: <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2017/05/what-is-health-equity-.html>

Q28. What are the “focus areas” for this CFP?

As noted on page 2 of the CFP, focus areas include (but are not limited to) changes in city planning, policies, and programs that address: buildings and energy; land use and urban planning; transportation; waste; food systems and food security; adaptation/resilience (e.g., heat, flooding, etc.); and/or air quality. Note that applicants are not limited only to these focus areas and may identify other relevant models/approaches from cities outside the U.S. that have demonstrated success and impact.

Q29. The CFP indicates that applicants must engage two or more sectors in a city. Please clarify “sectors.”

For purposes of this CFP, sectors are professional disciplines or divisions within city operations or government, such as different city department functions like community development, workforce development, planning, health, transportation, etc.

Q30. What do “action” and “implementation” mean in the CFP, and what is sufficient action or implementation in the grant time frame?

For this CFP, action refers to changes in city planning, policies, or programs that address the threat of climate change and health equity in one or more of the focus areas (see Q28).

C40 has compiled examples of successful approaches taken in cities outside the U.S., which include examples of action at the city level that can happen in a two-year time frame. These examples are provided for ideas and inspiration only, not as an exhaustive list. See the C40 examples [here](#).

Q31. You mention not wanting to fund a study or report. What if the project itself is a plan that will result in action? (added 4/24/20)

The CFP emphasizes “learning through action” -- by action we are looking for action that gets at changes in city planning, policies, or programs that address the threat of climate change and health equity. Your proposal can include other elements (e.g., research or evaluation of your efforts) but those elements must be directly related to the “action” you are trying to achieve. Action should happen within your grant period. We realize that some of the planned actions may extend beyond the 30-month grant period. That is fine and you can tell us about your long range goals. However, there must be some action within the grant period. Your proposal should describe what the action is and how it will be implemented during the grant period and post-grant period. In short, the 30 months cannot be spent on preparing a plan where all the action takes place after the grant period.

Q32. How will I know my community of focus is an RWJF target population? How does RWJF define “excluded or marginalized populations or vulnerable places”?

Applicants have wide latitude to make the case that a community is vulnerable to climate change. We deliberately do not have a specific definition for the kind of community that is most vulnerable; however, the CFP notes that excluded or marginalized groups include (but are not limited to) people of color; people living in poverty; religious minorities; people with physical or mental disabilities; LGBTQ persons; and women). We are also very interested in efforts that arise from indigenous, local, and traditional knowledge bases.

Q33. Can you define some of the key terms from the CFP?

Authentic community engagement: Authentic community engagement is working collaboratively with the community by building trust and creating meaningful opportunities for input, participation, and partnership in efforts to solve problems and improve community well-being.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Principles of community engagement (2nd ed.). 2011; NIH Publication No. 11–7782. www.atsdr.cdc.gov/communityengagement/pdf/PCE_Report_508_FINAL.pdf

City: In the United States, an incorporated city is a legally defined government entity. It has powers delegated by the state and county, and the local laws, regulations, and policies are created and approved by the voters of the city and their representatives. A city can provide local

government services to its citizens. In many places in the U.S., a town, village, community, or neighborhood is simply an unincorporated community with no governmental powers.

City network: An organization that works with groups of cities.

Equity: Fairness and justice, with a focus on outcomes that are most appropriate for a given group and with a recognition of different challenges, needs, and histories.

Global city network: An organization that works with groups of cities in different countries.

Key collaborating/partner organizations: Any organization (government-related, community-based, content expertise, etc.) whose work/involvement is essential to your proposed project.

Sectors: Professional disciplines or divisions within city operations or government.

Successful approach from outside the U.S.: Phrase used as shorthand in the CFP for multi-sector approaches developed/adapted and implemented in a city(ies) outside the U.S. These approaches should have demonstrated success in aligning and transforming interconnected systems in ways that help prevent and address the cascading impacts of climate change while building equity into sustainable urban futures.

ELIGIBILITY

Q34. What cities are eligible? Will all the funded cities be in the C40 network?

This opportunity is NOT limited to the C40 cities. Cities participating in the C40 network are eligible to apply for grants but will not receive preferential treatment in the application or selection process. Work funded through this grant can take place in any city(ies) in the U.S.

Q35. Are county governments eligible to apply as the applicant organization? Can counties be considered the U.S. city for this CFP? (added 4/24/20)

This call is specifically focused on cities. A county is eligible to apply as the applicant organization, but the proposed work must take place in a city(ies) as defined in Q33. A letter of support is required from the city(ies).

Q36. Do rural communities count as a city? (added 4/24/20)

Cities in rural areas are eligible. See the definition of city in the CFP and in FAQ question 31.

Q37. Does a federally recognized tribal nation count as a city? (added 4/24/20)

For this CFP, tribal nations do not fit the criteria in our definition of cities.

Q38. Do cities in U.S. territories count as the U.S. city(ies) or as the source of a non-U.S. solution? (added 4/24/20)

U.S. territories are part of the U.S. so their cities are considered U.S. cities; they would not fit the non-U.S. city criteria.

Q39. Is there a minimum city size that's eligible or desirable for the U.S. cities involved in the project?

There is no required lower limit of population size as long as the city meets the definition (see definitions above) and the other selection criteria can be met.

Q40. Should the primary applicant be the organization that already has implemented the approach in a non-U.S. city, or the organization that intends to implement the approach in the U.S. city(ies)?

The organization implementing the successful approach to address health, equity, and climate change in a U.S. city(ies) must serve as the primary applicant and will be the prime recipient of funds. The project director should be affiliated with the applicant organization. An individual from a collaborating organization (e.g., community organization, research partner, etc.) may serve as the co-project director.

Q41. Do applicants from outside the U.S. have to have a U.S. team member/landing city? The CFP says teams consisting of U.S. and non-U.S. members is encouraged, but is it required for non-U.S. applicants?

Applicants can be from almost anywhere in the world (see Q42) however, we will only fund proposals that demonstrate clear applicability to the U.S. and proposed work in a U.S. city(ies). The project team should have sufficient expertise and established relationships to implement their proposed work in a U.S. city(ies).

Applicants need not have an existing relationship with the non-U.S. city(ies), region, or network in which the approach has been implemented. However, applicants must have an established relationship with the U.S. city(ies) in which the proposed project will take place.

Q42. The CFP states that applicants may be based "almost anywhere in the world." What does "almost" refer to? What countries, regions, or cities are ineligible?

U.S. laws and regulations (e.g., U.S. Department of Treasury Office of Financial Assets Control Sanctions Programs) [limit funding](#) in certain countries.

Q43. Are intermediary organizations (for example, an intermediary that coordinates a network of U.S. cities with other cities outside the U.S.) eligible to apply? (added 4/24/20) (added 4/24/20)

Yes, you are eligible to apply. You will need to provide a letter of support from the U S city that you will be working in and if it's a group of cities, then a letter of support from each of those cities is needed.

Q44. If applicants have another grant award with the RWJF foundation are they eligible to apply for this program?

You may apply for multiple grants from RWJF, but each application must be for a distinct project.

Q45. Are applicants allowed to submit more than one proposal? Can applicants submit more than one idea? Can an organization or individual be a part of multiple proposals?

There is no limit to the number of proposals you may submit or partner with for this funding opportunity. Applicants may submit more than one idea or more than one proposal, but please submit just one idea per proposal. One person is permitted to serve as a co-investigator/co- project director or collaborator on several proposals or grants, but one person cannot be the principal

investigator/project director on more than one grant. In such cases, prior to awarding grants, we will review proposals and budgets to ensure that the amount of time the individual is spending across multiple RWJF grants is appropriate.

- Q46. If a city government wants to submit their own application but also has been approached by another organization to be part of their application, can the city be a part of both applications? Can a city be supportive of two or more grant proposals or projects? Does supporting multiple proposals hurt the city's chances of having any one project receive grant support?**
(added 4/24/20)

Yes, a city can be named on more than one application. There is no limit to the number of proposals an organization may submit or partner with for this funding opportunity. Being listed on multiple proposals does not hurt a city's chances of being part of a funded proposal. Although a city may be involved in multiple proposals, it is unlikely that more than one grant would be awarded to proposals involving the same U.S. city from this CFP. As stated in the CFP:

Projects will be selected with the intention of funding a diverse set of initiatives based on several considerations, such as source of successful approach from outside the United States (i.e., region of the world); characteristics of the U.S. city(ies) and populations served; incorporation of local, indigenous, or traditional knowledge; types of sectors and participants involved in the project; and the climate and health equity risks addressed. RWJF is interested in supporting a portfolio of projects which, together, represent an array of action areas and a range of budgets that are commensurate with grantees' expected activities.

- Q47. Can a for-profit research partner serve as a co-project director? Can a PhD student?**
(added 4/24/20)

Yes, a person from a for-profit organization may serve as co-project director or other member of the project team. There are no educational requirements of the project director. Page 5 of the CFP states:

Characteristics desired of project directors and key project personnel include:

- Eagerness and readiness to connect with and to learn alongside others globally and within the United States who are working at the intersection of health, equity, and climate change;
- Ability to influence local change and to serve as a changemaker more broadly through participation in city, state, and/or national networks;
- Commitment to equity, community engagement, and inclusion; and
- Open-mindedness and willingness to explore new ideas.

The project director and proposed team should have the knowledge, expertise, and capacity to successfully conduct the proposed activities.

- Q48. My university has multiple schools/departments/centers interested in this CFP. Are these considered separate organizations?**

No. A university is considered one organization.

Q49. Do I have to be on a special list maintained by RWJF or otherwise be pre-qualified to respond to a call for proposals?

No. Any organization is welcome to respond to a call for proposals (CFP), although prospective applicants should read the CFP carefully to ensure that they meet eligibility requirements.

Q50. Do you make grants to for-profit organizations?

The vast majority of our grants are made to nonprofit organizations and public agencies. Historically, less than one percent of our funding has been to for-profit organizations, always in instances where the institution's project is an excellent fit with our strategies and we felt they were best suited to do the work.

BUDGET AND OTHER FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Q51. Does the proposal for the project need to be exactly 30 months or might it be acceptable to develop one that is 24 months? (added 4/24/20)

We expect that all grantees will have the same start and end dates to facilitate learning along the way, which will enable all participants to learn from each other as the work progresses. This will also create opportunities to tell stories about the work of the U.S. cities individually and as a collective. Within the grant timeline you may have pique periods of activity but key project personnel should be available to participate in the collective learning and sharing for 30 months (see Q20).

Q52. How much funding is available? How many grants will be given?

RWJF expects to award grants up to \$600,000 each. A total of \$3,000,000 is available for this CFP, and the number of grants awarded will depend on the requested funding amounts from the finalists.

Q53. The maximum funding is \$600,000 for the project period. Does that mean proposals should be about \$600,000? Can they be smaller?

Budgets should be appropriate to the proposed scope of work, for a maximum of \$600,000 for the project period. RWJF is interested in supporting a portfolio of projects which, together, represent an array of action areas and a range of budgets that are commensurate with grantees' expected activities. We also are interested in a range of project budgets. In other words, we do not intend to fund five projects at \$600,000 each.

Q54. Will the Foundation award less than the amount requested in a proposal? Or will a proposal simply be rejected if the ask amount seems too high?

The Foundation looks carefully at the budget of each proposal to ensure it matches the scope of the work being proposed. This review is one consideration as we decide how we would proceed with a particular proposal. Grantees may be requested to revise their budget later in the process.

Q55. Must applicants secure matching funds?

No, matching funds are not required.

Q56. Does RWJF look favorably on proposals that bring additional funds from other foundations to support the project?

We welcome collaboration with other foundations; however, we will not give preference to proposals that do so.

Q57. Can these funds be used as a match for a project to which other funders have already committed?

Yes.

Q58. How much should applicants' budget to participate in the peer-learning workshops at the beginning and end of the grant cycle and in the grantee meeting?

Applicants should budget sufficient time to participate in learning activities, including webinars (held approximately quarterly), two multi-day peer-learning workshops (one in a European city outside the U.S. and one in a U.S. city), and an RWJF grantee meeting in a city within the U.S. In addition, all grantees will be required to budget for at least two participants to attend each of the peer-learning workshops and the grantee meeting (and may bring up to five people). Lodging and meal expenses during the events will be covered by RWJF. For individual travel, ground transportation, and meals while travelling, applicants should budget \$1,500 US per person for the peer-learning workshop in a European city outside the U.S., and \$800 US per person for the peer-learning workshop and the grantee meeting in the U.S. Please include this expense in your budget with a note that travel expenses will be reimbursed at cost and actual expenses may be lower. Please visit <https://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants-explorer/grantee-resources/legal-and-policy-information/travel.html> for the most recent travel guidelines and to download the Travel Policy for RWJF Grantees and Service Providers document.

Q59. Can these funds be used to evaluate an intervention implemented abroad by a U.S. based organization?

No. This funding opportunity seeks to develop and amplify the evidence around health, equity, and climate approaches in the United States. The \$600,000 maximum includes both indirect and direct costs.

Q60. Can the project pay for construction or infrastructure improvements, like residential home energy efficiency upgrades or solar panel installation? (added 4/24/20)

Grant funds cannot be used to support capital improvements or infrastructure renovation costs. Per the CFP under "Budget and Use of Grant Funds" (pg. 6): "In keeping with RWJF policy, grant funds may not be used to support clinical trials of unapproved drugs or devices, to construct or renovate facilities, for lobbying, for political activities, or as a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities."

For more information, please review the [Budget Preparation Guidelines](#) documents found in the Resources section of [MyRWJF](#).

Q61. Given the budget crises that many cities face, some of the positions that would support this project could be cut. Could grant money be used to pay for staff time to help ensure the position does not get cut during the course of the project? (added 4/24/20)

See [Budget Preparation Guidelines](#) for acceptable uses of grant funding.

Q62. Can international organizations be the applicant and receive direct funding? Can we budget money to international organizations? (added 4/24/20)

Yes to both. Please refer to the [Budget Preparation Guidelines](#) for more specific information about consultants and contractors.

Q63. Will this funding opportunity be offered in the future? (added 4/24/20)

This is a one-time call for proposals with no plans to reissue in the future.

Q64. Will climate and resilience work be a focus of further RWJF funding in the future? (added 4/24/20)

We are a health philanthropy. We work through the social determinants of health, which integrate health and health equity in many ways. As of today, work on climate change is a matter of health for the Foundation, but it is not a strategic area of funding.

Q65. What are indirect costs and how does RWJF address them?

Indirect costs are overhead expenses of the applicant organization that are not directly incurred in support of the project. These are operational expenses of the applicant organization that are shared among projects and/or functions. Examples include executive oversight, accounting, grants management, legal expenses, utilities, and facility maintenance.

The Foundation's approved rate is 12% of all direct costs (Personnel, Other Direct Costs, and Consultants/Contractors) associated with the project. However, if the Consultants/Contractors category equals more than 33% of the total of Personnel, Other Direct Costs and Consultants/Contractors, RWJF allows 12% indirect on Personnel and Other Direct Costs, and 4% on Consultants/Contractors. State the amount requested from RWJF.

We recognize that the calculated indirect cost rates for some grantees may exceed the maximum allowed by the Foundation. However, the Foundation is a charitable entity and does not match the indirect cost rates supported by the U.S. government or other entities.

Q66. Can you provide more detail on how the budget can be used?

Please review the [Budget Preparation Guidelines](#) (available in the Resources section of MyRWJF) and the CFP section entitled "Use of Grant Funds" for specific information on what can and cannot be included in the budget.

Q67. The budget area of the online applications asks for the number of FTEs at the applicant organization in total, and also for the number of FTE budgeted each year in this proposed project. Please explain.

The "number of FTEs at the applicant organization in total" refers to the count of all FTEs in the entire organization. The "number of FTEs in each budget year" refers to the FTEs dedicated to the proposed project each year of the grant.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS**Q68. Will RWJF consider extending the original April 30 proposal submission deadline in light of COVID-19? (added 4/7/20)**

RWJF has moved the deadline out almost a month from April 30 (original deadline) to Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 3 pm Eastern Time. We updated the deadline in the [Call for Proposals](#) document and the [landing page](#) for this solicitation. We will announce the date change on the April 9 applicant webinar (archived in the online MyRWJF application system) and through all of our external communications channels. The submission deadline sits within a larger process that has multiple deadlines sequenced to allow us to make grant funding this calendar year, which we think is very important. We have re-worked our internal timeline and deadlines to make this work. We hope this new deadline will provide prospective applicants with the space and time to respond if you are interested in doing so.

The Foundation gave a lot of thought to the timing of this CFP generally in light of COVID-19. We know many people in and adjacent to city government are consumed with the pandemic. We also know that many people are being laid off or not part of the COVID response; and that many funding sources and opportunities right now are on hold. With all that in mind and given the continued urgent threat we face with climate change and health equity – perhaps now more than ever -- we decided to move forward with this CFP at this time.

Q69. If COVID-19 affects the completeness of our proposal, should we still submit? (added 4/7/20)

We recognize that these are extraordinary times. Even with the new submission deadline of May 28, 2020, if there is some detail of your proposal that you cannot complete due to a COVID-related hurdle, we encourage you to submit a proposal and describe your hurdle. As an example: perhaps your proposal includes working with three departments – you have buy-in from two of the department directors. For the third one the department staff is on board but the department director has not been available to review and consent to the project because she has been an essential part of the City's COVID management. State that in your proposal. After you submit, keep working on the hurdle, whatever it is.

However, we encourage your proposal to have a complete plan so we can understand it and give it a fair review. So again, if you are missing supporting information due to COVID-19 issues (e.g., a piece of data), explain what's missing in your proposal narrative. If your proposal advances to the semifinalist phase, we will ask you to fill in any holes due to COVID issues at that time, which is scheduled for mid to late July 2020.

Q70. What letters of support are we required to submit with our proposal?

Applicants not representing city government are required to submit a letter of support from the head of the city department (in the U.S.) with whom the applicant will most closely work. (This applies to each U.S. city where you are planning to work.) All other letters of support — from key collaborating/partner organizations or other entities — are optional.

Q71. The CFP mentions the need for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Can you say more about this and when it is due?

If selected to receive a grant, non-government applicants will be required to complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. city(ies) involved in the project that outlines how the project will be implemented. Finalists will be asked to submit the MOU during the due diligence phase of the grant review process.

Q72. Should references/citations be included in the proposal narrative?

Citations and references should be included in your proposal narrative or as an item in your the "Supporting Documents."

Q73. Are proposals reviewed by experts from outside of RWJF?

In many instances, RWJF asks outside experts to review proposals. By doing so, RWJF aims to ensure that we remain fair and rigorous in evaluating proposals.

Q74. What is the review process for this CFP?

There are several steps in the review process. All proposals will go through an initial eligibility review. Those passing that review process will be read and scored by internal (RWJF staff) and external (non-RWJF) reviewers who have subject matter expertise in the content of the CFP. Semifinalist phone interviews will be held in July/August 2020 with final award notifications expected to be delivered in September 2020. Please note: If needed we will make adjustments to the timeline due to evolving circumstances with COVID-19.

Q75. Will C40 be conducting a formal evaluation of the collective grant effort or support project-specific evaluation efforts? (added 4/24/20)

No, C40 will not be performing any long-term evaluation of the grant effort. However, they will be involved in the proposal selection and review process. As with all of our reviewers, they will be required to abide by our conflicts of interest policy.

Q76. Can you share a copy of a successful proposal?

No, the Foundation treats proposals as applicants' intellectual property and does not share them externally.

Q77. Can multiple people edit one application in the online system?

Yes. Instructions are under the Resources section on the left-hand side of the MyRWJF application system.

Q78. I'm not sure if my program qualifies or if my proposed approach is a good fit. Can I speak with a program officer before deciding whether or not to submit my proposal?

In fairness to all applicants, we cannot provide personal consultations with RWJF staff. We cannot review or provide guidance on ideas submitted via e-mail or communicated by phone.

If, after reviewing the informational materials for this funding opportunity (these frequently asked questions, the [C40 Solutions](#) examples, our [funding opportunity brochure](#), RWJF's [general grantmaking guidelines](#), and the information and instructions provided in [RWJF's online application portal](#)), you are still unsure of whether your proposal is a good fit, we encourage you to apply. You

may also email globalideas2020@rwjf.org with questions and refer back to the FAQ document, which will be updated as questions are received.

Q79. Do I have to submit the proposal online?

Yes. Proposals will only be accepted through RWJF's online system at [My.RWJF.org](http://www.rwjf.org). To apply, visit <http://www.rwjf.org/cfp/global3> and use the Apply Online link located on the right side of the screen.

Q80. I am a non-U.S. based applicant and am unable to start an application/the "Apply Online" button on the CFP landing page is not working. How can I start an application?

Please email globalideas2020@rwjf.org to let us know of your issue. Be sure to include the country from which you are accessing the CFP landing page.

Q81. What is the deadline for the CFP proposal and late submission policy? (updated 4/7/20)

The deadline for proposals is Thursday, May 28 at 3:00 p.m. ET. To be accepted for review, your proposal must be completed and submitted by the deadline. In fairness to all applicants, late submissions will not be accepted. When experiencing difficulty with the online application system, which may result in missing the deadline, applicants should immediately report the problem via email to globalideas2020@rwjf.org. The email should include the documents and/or content you were unable to upload. Please note: If needed we will make adjustments to the timeline due to evolving circumstances with COVID-19.

Q82. How will I know that my proposal has been successfully submitted?

You will receive an email from the [MyRWJF](http://www.rwjf.org) application site confirming that you have submitted your proposal successfully.

NOTE: Once you have completed all required sections of your proposal, you must return to the home page of the [MyRWJF](http://www.rwjf.org) system to gain access to the "Submit" button, located in the upper right of the home screen. After clicking the "Submit" button, you will see a screen confirming your submission.

Q83. How can I check the status of my proposal once it is submitted?

We expect to receive many proposals, all of which go through the same review process. Once you submit your proposal through the MyRWJF system, you will receive an email from myrwjf@rwjf.org confirming your submission; please check your spam folder if you do not receive this email.

Q84. Will I receive feedback on the content of my proposal after a decision is made?

RWJF does not provide individual critiques or comments on proposals that are not selected for funding. General feedback is usually provided in the letter informing the applicant of RWJF's decision.