Revised Proposal Deadline: May 28, 2020 (3 p.m. ET)



GLOBAL IDEAS FOR U.S. SOLUTIONS Cities Taking Action to Address Health, Equity, and Climate Change

OVERVIEW

With this call for proposals (CFP), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Global Ideas for U.S. Solutions team seeks proposals that put multisector approaches from cities outside of the United States into action in U.S. cities to mitigate the unequal health risks posed by climate change. Up to \$3 million is available for this funding opportunity, which will be 30 months in duration. Budgets should align with the proposed scope of work, but not exceed \$600,000 for the project period.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) seeks to improve health by fostering collaboration across sectors. If different sectors have the capacity, data, and urgency to work together to address community needs, they can make and sustain progress toward better health for all. For purposes of this CFP, RWJF defines such multisector approaches as those with 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. A multisector approach includes how projects are conceived, developed, and financed, as well as the tools city leaders use to make investment and operations decisions. Throughout this CFP, "successful approaches from outside the United States" will be used as shorthand for this multisector approach.

Competitive proposals will identify one or more impactful programs, policies, or interventions from a city outside the United States to adapt or adopt and implement in a U.S. city(ies) to address the threat of climate change and advance health equity. They will address changes in city planning, policies, and programs in one or more focus areas (see "Purpose" below) and they will engage partners representing two or more sectors (i.e., professional disciplines or divisions in operations or government) within a city. They will consider how, if successful, the work can be sustained after the grant period ends through policy change or financing through market rate or social investors. Finally, they will focus on populations who are most at risk of inequities and incorporate the voices and expertise of those community members in this project as part of an inclusive process (i.e., planning, implementation, evaluation, and communication/dissemination activities).

We encourage proposals from U.S.-based applicants to learn with and from successful approaches from outside the United States, and from non-U.S.-based applicants with a successful approach that could work in the United States. While approaches must come from outside of the United States, the proposed project must be implemented in a U.S. city or cities.

BACKGROUND

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the largest philanthropy focused solely on improving the health of people living in the United States. We are strategically focused on achieving health equity. Accordingly, we are helping to build a Culture of Health in the United States, where everyone has a fair and just opportunity to live their healthiest life. We work with people across the nation to advance this vision. Similarly, countries across all income levels are taking steps to improve health and well-being in their communities. With our grantees, RWJF's Global Ideas for U.S. Solutions team is collaborating with individuals and organizations around the world to identify insights that can inspire us all to imagine new possibilities and practical solutions that can be adapted in the United States.

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At RWJF, we believe there is much to understand, learn, and share from a wide range of cities around the world that are taking action to tackle the intertwined issues of health, equity, and climate change. The health impacts of climate change are challenging and deserve urgent attention.¹ Our rapidly warming planet and the related ecosystem changes are causing myriad harms to ecological and human health, which are expected to continue to worsen dramatically in the future.^{2,3} Health impacts include illness and injury, and associated harm to mental health and wellbeing, from extreme heat and other extreme weather events; reductions in air quality; increases in vector-borne diseases and food- and water-borne illnesses; and decreases in nutrition and food security.⁴ These health impacts disproportionately affect those most vulnerable, including pregnant women, children, older adults, those with chronic conditions, people with disabilities, people with limited financial resources and social contacts, and people living in low-income communities or belonging to communities of color. Accordingly, there is an immediate need and opportunity to address health, equity, and climate change simultaneously.

Home to about 55 percent of the world's people, cities are central to efforts to limit climate change and prevent its harmful health impacts. By 2050, more than two-thirds of the global population will live in cities.⁵ In the United States, cities are home to nearly two-thirds (63%) of the population.⁶ According to the United Nations (UN), strategies for managing urbanization must address the needs of low-income populations and other vulnerable groups for housing, education, public services, and decent work—as well as access to social services, infrastructure, sustainable urban planning, and a safe environment for all.⁵ The UN Sustainable Development Goals emphasize the importance of health and well-being (Goal 3); sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11); and climate action (Goal 13). Sustainability and inclusiveness are also dominant themes of the World Health Organization, which asserts that health and health equity are critical to sustainable development: "Healthy cities are socially inclusive—places where planning and policymaking incorporate the views, voices, and needs of all communities. Health is not only an indicator for monitoring progress, but a fundamental driver of sustainable development."⁷ Already, 70 percent of cities are dealing with the effects of climate change.⁸ The World Health Organization's Climate and Health Country Profiles states, "To protect health from risks derived from climate change, decision-makers (going from national leaders to individual citizens) need access to the best information possible on the risks and the opportunities for action."⁹

See Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for more background on this topic and this CFP.

PURPOSE

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. Projects should address how cities or city networks (organizations that work with groups of cities) *outside* the United States are building health equity into sustainable urban futures to address the urgent threat of climate change and how those approaches will be adapted or adopted *and implemented* in the United States.

Focus areas for this CFP 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); and/or air quality, with required engagement from partners representing two or more sectors (i.e., professional disciplines or divisions in city operations or government) within a city. Applicants should embed inclusion and engagement of local community members in their proposed projects, and consideration of financial sustainability after the grant period ends.

There is much to understand, learn, and share from a wide range of cities and regions around the world. Grant funds may be used to implement action in the United States based on existing models and approaches in cities around the

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world that address climate change and health equity in ways that are new or different from what we are already doing in the United States. See "Resources" for a list of **examples from other countries.** Also see <u>FAQs</u> for more examples. 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 United States that have demonstrated success and impact.

TOTAL AWARDS

Up to \$3 million will be available for this funding opportunity. The funding period will be 30 months in duration (2.5 years), and will include a brief planning period, implementation, and dissemination/communication activities, as well as active participation in a learning network. The proposed budget should be appropriate to the scope of work, but no more than \$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.

Grants will be awarded in November 2020. Funding is contingent upon final confirmation from RWJF.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

We are seeking applicants who represent organizations from a wide range of fields and disciplines—both within and outside the health/public health sector. We encourage proposals from both U.S.-based applicants to adopt or adapt a successful approach from outside the United States, 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. We seek to attract diversity of thought, professional background, race, ethnicity, life experience, and cultural perspective in our applicant pool. Building a Culture of Health means integrating health into all aspects of society, so we encourage multisector partnerships and collaboration.

Please note:

- Applicants may be based almost anywhere in the world;* however, we will only fund proposals that demonstrate clear applicability to the United States and propose work in a U.S. city(ies).
- Awards will be made to organizations, not individuals. Preference will be given to applicants that are either public entities (e.g., city department of health, city planning department), public charities, or nongovernmental organizations. Applicants not representing city government will be required to submit a letter of support from the head of the U.S. city department with whom the applicant will most closely work.
- Proposals must be based on a successful approach from a non-U.S. city(ies), region, or global city network. See examples here.
- 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.
- 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

^{*}U.S. laws and regulations (e.g., U.S. Department of Treasury Office of Financial Assets Control Sanctions Programs) limit funding in certain countries.

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be affiliated with the applicant organization. An individual from a collaborating organization (e.g., community organization, research partner) may serve as the co-project director.

OUR EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITMENT

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is committed to building a Culture of Health that provides everyone in the United States a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. Achieving this goal requires focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion. To that end, we are committed to fostering diverse perspectives. We recognize that individuals' perspectives are shaped by a host of factors, such as their race, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, age, socioeconomic status, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, familial status, education, religion, legal status, military service, political affiliation, geography, and other personal and professional experiences.

We know that the presence of diverse perspectives alone is not sufficient. Therefore, we also are committed to creating inclusive environments where all individuals are encouraged to share their perspectives and experiences. We believe that only through valuing our differences and similarities, and remaining vigilant in advancing equity, will we be able to maintain an equitable workplace and actively pursue equity in all aspects of our work. We commit to being continuous learners and working alongside others to cultivate equity, diversity, and inclusion.

COLLABORATION WITH C40 CITIES AND 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 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 United States and one at the end of the grant cycle to be held within the United States—and quarterly webinars. Further information about learning network activities will be provided in the applicant webinar and is available in the FAQs.

SELECTION CRITERIA

All proposals will be screened for eligibility and then reviewed using the following criteria:

- Project adopts or adapts an approach from a city outside the United States with demonstrated impact or success and puts it into action in a U.S. city(ies) to change city planning, policies, or programs that address the threat of climate change and health equity;
- Project supports planning and implementation of action in a U.S. city(ies) that fits into and will support that locale's ongoing efforts (not a standalone initiative);
- Project creates sustainable progress toward improving health and well-being in communities, especially among
 excluded or marginalized groups (e.g., including but not limited to people of color; people living in poverty;
 religious minorities; people with physical or mental disabilities; LGBTQ persons; and women);
- Project incorporates the voice, leadership, and expertise of local community members from excluded or marginalized populations and vulnerable places;

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- Project addresses urban sustainability and engages at least two sectors (professional disciplines or government divisions) within a city to address the unequal health risks of climate change;
- Project includes preliminary ideas about communication and dissemination activities for sharing the ideas, insights, and lessons learned from this project;
- Well-developed action plan, with demonstrated support from the U.S. city(ies) in which the project will take place, as well as knowledge, expertise, and capacity of the project director and key staff to successfully conduct the proposed activities;
- Risk mitigation plan addressing how the project will be sustained in the event of leadership changes and/or shifts in city priorities;
- Clear delineations of project team members' and partners' roles and responsibilities, including amount of time allocated to carry out project activities; and
- Appropriateness of budget and project timeline.

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.

In addition to the criteria listed above, 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.

SELECTION PROCESS

All applicants will submit a full proposal, which will include a narrative of no more than 10 pages, along with a detailed budget, budget narrative, and additional information, by May 28, 2020, at 3 p.m. ET. All budget numbers must be in U.S. dollars, and the application must be written in English.

There are two phases in the competitive proposal process:

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In Phase 1, proposals will be screened for eligibility and selection criteria and reviewed by RWJF staff and external reviewers with expertise in this area. At the end of this phase, semifinalists will be identified.

In Phase 2, semifinalists will be contacted for additional information. For nongovernment applicants this may include a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. city to demonstrate commitment to the project and how it will be implemented. Questions will be sent prior to a telephone or video call with the project director and several RWJF staff. After final review, finalists will be selected. Finalists will be notified by July 2020. Grants will begin November 2020.

Staff from C40 Cities—a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change—will assist RWJF and external advisers in reviewing and evaluating proposals. Cities participating in the C40 network will be eligible to apply for grants but will not receive preferential treatment in the application or selection process.

BUDGET AND USE OF GRANT FUNDS

Grant funds may be used for project staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel, and other direct project expenses, including a limited amount of equipment essential to the project, and indirect costs to support the operations of the applicant organization. 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.

Applicants should budget sufficient time to participate in learning activities, including webinars (held approximately quarterly), two multi-day peer-learning workshops (one in a city outside the U.S. and one in a U.S. city), and an RWJF grantee meeting in a city within the United States. 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. Information on budgeting is available in the <u>FAQs</u> and the <u>Budget Preparation Guidelines</u>.

EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Grantees are expected to meet RWJF requirements for the submission of narrative and financial reports, as well as periodic information needed for overall project performance monitoring and management. At the close of each grant, the lead organization is expected to provide a written report on the project and its findings suitable for wide dissemination. Grants to organizations outside of the United States will be recommended for an award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Global Ideas Fund, a donor-advised fund of Charities Aid Foundation of America (CAF America) and will be expected to meet CAF America's reporting requirements.

APPLICANT SURVEY PROCESS

The project director of the proposal may be contacted after the submission deadline by SSRS, an independent research firm. The project director will be asked to complete a brief online survey about the proposal process and applicant characteristics. This voluntary questionnaire will take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Responses provided to SSRS will not impact the funding decision for your proposal in any way.

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SSRS will protect the confidentiality of your responses. RWJF will not receive any data that links your name with your survey responses.

OPEN ACCESS

To ensure RWJF-supported research is made accessible to a wide and diverse audience, grantees who publish findings in peer-reviewed publications must do so in open access journals and/or must include funds in their budgets to cover the cost of making the resulting publications open access (typically \$2,000–\$5,000 per manuscript).

HOW TO APPLY

All applicants will submit a proposal, which will include a narrative of no more than 10 pages, along with a detailed budget, budget narrative and additional information, by May 28, 2020 at 3 p.m. ET. All budget numbers must be in U.S. dollars, and the application must be written in English.

Proposals should address each of the following elements:

- 1. Project Focus, Components, and Activities. Describe:
- How the project is addressing:
 - o climate change adaptation, sequestration, or mitigation
 - o health risks, and
 - o inequities and impacted communities
- In which city outside the United States the successful approach has been implemented, and how it has impacted health, equity, and climate change to date.
- Where and how the successful approach from a city outside the United States will be put into action in a U.S. city(ies) and how you expect it will change—and support ongoing efforts in—city planning, policies, or programs that address the intertwined threats of health, equity and climate change.
- The focus area(s) the project is addressing (see page 2 for a list of focus areas; note that applicants are not limited only to those listed and may identify other relevant models/approaches from cities outside the United States that have demonstrated success and impact).
- Which two (or more) sectors (i.e., professional disciplines or divisions in city operations or government) within a city(ies) the project engages.
- The key project activities, timing, and deliverables.
- 2. Inclusion and Community Engagement. Describe:
- Characteristics of the specific population(s) the project is addressing.

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- Current or past engagement (if any) with community members around this or a similar issue.
- How community members most impacted will be involved in project planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- 3. Communications and Dissemination. Describe preliminary ideas about:
- Activities for sharing the ideas, insights, and lessons learned from this project within the applicants' own cities, with RWJF staff, with other RWJF grantees funded through this opportunity.
- Activities for sharing with a broader set of cities/communities and those working to address health, equity, and climate change.
- How community members will explicitly be involved in the communication and dissemination activities.

4. Program Team and Collaborators. Describe:

- The project team and their relevant work and experience, including connections to the issue(s) being addressed, the city(ies) in which the proposed project will occur, and the population(s) most impacted.
- The U.S. partners and, if applicable, the non-U.S. partners engaged in adapting the successful approach from a city outside the United States to the United States, including their roles and levels of engagement, and how they will collaborate.
- The project team's specific experience, resources, and capacities to address the issue of health, equity, and climate change and to adapt the successful approach from a non-U.S. city(ies) to the proposed U.S. city(ies).
- Other experience as relevant to the project.

5. Key Assumptions and Challenges. Describe:

- Key assumptions about existing and future support from the U.S. city(ies) in which the project will take place (e.g., political, funding, priority).
- Potential challenges and risks associated with the proposed project—externally within the broader landscape, as well as possible internal capacity issues—and how you propose to address or mitigate the challenges and risks, including potential changes in leadership and/or city priorities.
- 6. Evidence of Success. Describe:
- How you define success for this project. What is the expected impact on health, equity, and climate change during the grant period as well as post grant? Please share any existing targets you are working toward (if applicable) or the indicators that will show the anticipated impact of your work.
- How your proposed project will advance our knowledge and understanding of how to address health, equity, and climate change in U.S. cities and how to adapt global ideas to the United States.

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- The potential of the project to influence thinking and practice within and beyond the immediate project organization(s) and city(ies). If possible, please share your thinking about how this project could be scaled within your proposed U.S. city(ies) or in other places in the United States.
- The possible ways the work may be sustained after the grant period by bringing new funding partners to the table, policy changes, financing, etc.

Proposals for this solicitation must be submitted electronically via the RWJF online system. Visit *www.rwjf.org/cfp/global3* and use the "Apply Online" link. If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at *my.rwjf.org* before you begin the proposal process.

All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online submission requirements well before the submission deadline. Staff may not be able to assist all applicants in the final 24 hours before the submission deadline.

Proposals will be reviewed by RWJF staff, as well as external, independent reviewers. All funding decisions for grants to U.S. organizations are made by RWJF. Grants to organizations outside of the United States will be recommended for an award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Global Ideas Fund, a donor-advised fund of Charities Aid Foundation of America (CAF America).

Please direct inquiries to:

Email: globalideas2020@rwjf.org

Interested applicants are encouraged to participate in an informational webinar scheduled for April 9, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. ET. Registration is required. (An archived webinar recording also will be available.)

RWJF does not provide individual critiques of proposals submitted.

PROGRAM DIRECTION

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- Sharon Z. Roerty, AICP/PP/MCRP, senior program officer
- Karabi B. Acharya, ScD, director
- Sharleen Rajput, program financial analyst

Funded proposals will be managed by an assigned program officer.

KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

• April 9, 2020 (11 a.m.–12 p.m. ET) Optional applicant webinar. Registration is required through this link.

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- May 28, 2020 (3 p.m. ET) Revised deadline for receipt of proposals.*
- Mid-July 2020 Semifinalists notified and asked to address questions in scheduled telephone call with RWJF staff.
- July 27–August 7, 2020 Telephone calls with semifinalists. Please hold these dates on your calendars.
- September 2020 Finalists notified.
- November 2020 Grants begin.

*All proposals for this solicitation must be submitted via the RWJF online system. Visit *www.rwjf.org/cfp/global3* and use the "Apply Online" link. If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at *my.rwjf.org* before you begin the application process. All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online proposal requirements well before the final submission deadline.

LATE SUBMISSIONS

RWJF will accept only those proposals that are completed/submitted by the deadline. Because one of our Guiding Principles is to treat everyone with fairness and respect, RWJF's deadline policy applies to all applicants. If an applicant experiences a problem with the online application system that may prevent them from submitting on time, please notify the program administrator immediately. To do so, click on the "Contact Us" link found in the "Resources" area on the left side of most screens within the online proposal site. We encourage you to submit your proposal well before the deadline so any unforeseen difficulties, e.g., technical problems, may be addressed in advance.

REFERENCES

1. IPCC (2018) Global Warming of 1.5 degrees C: An IPCC Special Report. Downloaded from: www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/

2. USGCRP, 2018: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock, and B.C. Stewart (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA. doi: 10.7930/NCA4.2018.

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5. 2108 Revision of the World Urbanization Prospects. Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). www.un.org/development/desa/publications/2018-revision-of-world-urbanization-prospects.html

6. U.S. Census Bureau. Population Trends in Incorporated Places: 2000–2013. www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p25-1142.pdf

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7. World Health Organization. *Health as the Pulse of the New Urban Agenda*, October 2016. https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/250367/9789241511445-eng.pdf?sequence=1

8. *The Future We Don't Want—How climate change could impact the world's greatest cities.* C40 Cities, Global Covenant of Mayors, Acclimatise, and the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN). February 2018. *www.c40.org/other/the-future-we-don-t-want-homepage*

9. World Health Organization. Climate and Health Country Profiles–2015. https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/208855/WHO_FWC_PHE_EPE_15.01_eng.pdf?sequence=1

ABOUT THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

For more than 45 years, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are working alongside others to build a national Culture of Health that provides everyone in America a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. For more information, visit *rwjf.org.* Follow the Foundation on Twitter at *www.rwjf.org/twitter* or on Facebook at *www.rwjf.org/facebook*.

Sign up to receive email alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at www.rwjf.org/manage-your-subscriptions.html.

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