

STREETS FOR PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

A Bloomberg Philanthropies grant opportunity for NACTO Members

INTRODUCTION

Today, more than a year after COVID-19 was first reported in the U.S., vaccinations are on the rise, children in many places are returning to school, and decision-makers are weighing safe opportunities to reopen their economies. But the crisis is not over, and the pandemic's public health, social, and economic impacts are still unfolding. For communities that have faced historic disinvestment, the inequities that existed before the pandemic began and were brought sharply into focus during the summer of 2020 only continue to deepen.

As we inch toward a full reopening, we cannot return to a pre-pandemic "normal" that disinvested in communities and amplified economic and racial inequities. For transportation agencies, this means preparing for, planning, and implementing projects based on and in response to stated community needs with meaningful input and guidance from community members.

Last summer, [NACTO offered grant support](#) to ten cities that, in partnership with community-based organizations, were reimagining streets to meet the needs of populations disproportionately harmed by COVID-19. Leveraging community-rooted partners' local expertise and relationships alongside city staff's ability to implement projects in the public right-of-way, these 10 city-community partnerships developed COVID-19 information and testing hubs in the public right-of-way; opened streets for outdoor schooling, dining, and walking; and created new outdoor community hubs.

Building on the success of last year's 10 city-community partner teams, NACTO, with funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, is again offering grant support to 10 city transportation agencies that are centering community expertise in COVID-19 response and recovery. Eligible strategies will focus on physical or operational changes to public space, including the roadbed, sidewalks, and other spaces such as parking lots or plazas that are being converted to support a community need. All strategies should respond to the needs of populations disproportionately harmed by COVID-19's public health and economic impacts.

In addition to the time you spend implementing your project, we anticipate that each grantee will need to dedicate 5-6 hours of time over 5 months engaging with the grantee cohort, 2-4 hours participating in workshops / charrettes (as a listener and presenter), 6-7 hours doing ongoing and final progress reporting on the project during the life of the grant, and an optional 3-5 hours of one-on-one office hours. This amounts to approximately 20 hours of time over 5 months. This is an estimate and is subject to change.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

We will award grants of \$50,000 to projects in **ten** NACTO member agencies, and will base selections on the following criteria:

- Projects must be **directly and demonstrably related to COVID-19 response and recovery** efforts.
- Projects must be **physical or operational changes to public spaces**.
- Projects must **center the needs of populations disproportionately harmed by COVID-19's public health, social, and economic impacts**. Needs assessment can be based on existing (pre COVID-19) and/or new community engagement-based data. Recent and updated engagement specifically directed at the proposed project within the context of COVID-19 needs is strongly encouraged. See Section 3 of this application for further discussion of project engagement expectations.
- Projects must be **developed with a community-rooted partner** who holds expertise and relationships with local residents.*
- Projects must **demonstrate a high level of project readiness, evident in clear support, strong community partnerships and/or project ownership, and a high likelihood of being implemented within the grant timeline**.
- Applicants should be interested **in and willing to participate in a knowledge sharing cohort**.

*We are looking for city agencies partnering with a community-based, not-for-profit organization with a mission that includes addressing the needs and issues in the community it serves, and/or city agencies partnering with individuals who live and/or work directly in the community. NACTO welcomes applications that include additional partners that do not meet these definitions, such as local chambers of commerce, business development organizations, or elected officials representing the community. If you are working with a partner who is rooted in the community, but you are concerned that they don't meet the above descriptions, please feel free to email covidgrant@nacto.org.

NACTO **will not** award grants to projects that do not align with our stated policies, including:

- Projects that increase capacity for or encourage increased travel in single occupancy vehicles.
- Projects that directly fund or require local law enforcement to manage public space.
- Projects that reduce the availability of options for people walking, biking, or rolling.
- Projects that diminish access for people with disabilities.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

NACTO member cities and transit agencies may apply. Each application must identify the city government agency serving as Lead Applicant with oversight of the project.

We will select applicants that represent a diverse range of city population sizes, geographic locations, and transportation challenges and opportunities. Agencies that received funding through this program in 2020 can apply again, but preference may be given to new agencies that were not able to participate in the first year. Each NACTO member may only submit one application.

GRANT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The selected grant recipients will be responsible for collecting and delivering basic metrics about their project, as well as before and after implementation photos:

- **Metrics:** The selected grant recipients will be asked to identify and collect process, output, and outcome metrics during and after the grant period.
- **Photos:** The selected grant recipients will be asked to document their project development and implementation with photos that can be shared with NACTO.

Note that while we are requiring all grant recipients to collect metrics and photos, we will provide workshops on best practices for identifying and collecting metrics as well as documenting projects throughout the grant program.

TIMELINE

Below is a high level timeline for the grant program. Exact dates subject to change.

- May 20th, 2021: Applications due
- Early June 2021: Awardees announced
- Late June 2021: Full cohort call - Building Relationships with Partners
- July 2021: Optional workshop - Metrics & Data Collection
- August 2021: Full cohort call - *Topic TBD*
- September 2021: Optional workshop - *Topic TBD*
- October 2021: Final cohort call - *Topic TBD*
- Early November 2021: Project wrap-up and metrics due

APPLICATION AND DEADLINE

We have designed this application to take **approximately 20-25 person hours total**, including writing, review, and approval. If you are finding that this application is taking significantly more time, please send an email to covidgrant@nacto.org letting us know.

The deadline for this application is 8:00pm ET on Thursday, May 20, 2021. Please submit your completed application and any other relevant documents to covidgrant@nacto.org with the subject “[Your city / agency] Grant Application.”

APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Demonstration of existing/ongoing community partnerships	25 points
Demonstration of need	25 points
Demonstration of impact	20 points
Implementation readiness (including budget, timeline)	20 points
Project support	10 points

TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE	100 points
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① PROJECT TEAM

Each application must identify the city government agency serving as Lead Applicant with oversight of the project.

Lead Applicant

City / agency:

Department or division:

Primary Contact for Lead Applicant

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

Community-rooted Partner (if more than one, list all here):

Primary Contact(s) for Community-rooted Partner

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

Our community-rooted partner will be receiving the funds on our behalf

If you checked the box above and have more than one partner, please indicate which partner(s) will be receiving the funds:

Are any other city agencies involved in this project? If so, which ones?

② PROJECT SUMMARY (max. 300 words)

Project Title:

In 2 sentences or less, please provide a high-level description of your project:

Project Description

Provide a brief summary of your proposed project, what demonstrated need it addresses (and how you know that need exists), and how it relates to your city's broader response to the needs of people disproportionately harmed by COVID-19's public health, social, and economic impacts. (max. 200 words)

③ PROJECT ENGAGEMENT

Please identify the community partner(s) you will be working with for this project, as well as a brief explanation of why the person or organization is partnering with you, any history of your city or department partnering with this person or organization, and their knowledge of the project. (max. 150 words per community partner)

Describe your city or department's experience working with the communities, businesses, and/or specific community partners that are relevant to your project, and describe how your agency will share decision-making power with community-based organizations throughout the project process. Please be thoughtful about whether your project is either location specific (e.g. specific street closures) or citywide (e.g. an open air restaurant program where any restaurant or street vendor in any neighborhood can apply) and explain how this influences your work's impact, conception of "success", and community partnerships. (max. 200 words)

④ PROJECT IMPACT (max. 300 words)

What does success look like for this project (both in terms of outputs *and* outcomes)?
(max. 100 words)

What specific measurements or tools do you plan to use to determine success for this project? (max. 100 words)

What else do you hope to learn or improve along the way (e.g., new agency procedures, interagency or community partner relationships, public engagement techniques)?
(max. 100 words)

Note: This question is intended to help you think about what success looks like for this project and how you might measure that success. While we will ask you to report out on the impact of your project at the end of the grant, you do not need to already be collecting these metrics, nor will we hold you to these specific metrics. If desirable to the cohort, we may dedicate time to supporting you as you identify the best metrics for success for your particular project, and how to collect them.

⑤ PROJECT BUDGET AND TIMELINE

(max. 200 words)

Describe your overall project timeline, including what will be implemented in 5 months, and the project duration. (max. 100 words)

Describe how the \$50,000 grant will be used (e.g., materials, staff time, outreach, etc.).
(max. 100 words)

⑥ PROJECT SUPPORT

(max. 200 words plus links)

Describe the existing support for your agency's efforts to develop this project. Project support comes from different places, but we are generally looking for projects that have internal support (within the agency) and external support (among city leaders and community partners) to be built. (max. 200 words)

Please include evidence of demonstrated political support for either this specific project or previous efforts to develop projects like this in close partnership with community based organizations [links or attachments].

⑦ NACTO COHORT

(max. 100 words)

NACTO is seeking grantees that are interested in and willing to engage in a cohort of other grantees to share knowledge / questions / lessons learned about rapid project development throughout the life of the grant. Why is your city interested in participating in a cohort of other NACTO members on this topic? (max. 100 words)