

# ECONOMIC MOBILITY & OPPORTUNITY

## PEER LEARNING COHORT & GRANT PROGRAM

Program Overview and Q&A

4-26-2024

# ICMA'S EMO INITIATIVE

Supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to:

1. Increase local decision-makers' understanding of drivers of and barriers to mobility and opportunity
2. Support local leaders in identifying and implementing actions to advance upward mobility for residents of their communities.

Through:

- Research & resources
- In-person and virtual learning opportunities
- Peer learning cohort + grants to local governments

# WHAT DO WE MEAN BY ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND OPPORTUNITY?

- **Economic success.** When a person has adequate income and assets to support their and their family's material well-being.
- **Being valued in community.** When a person feels the respect, dignity, and sense of belonging that comes from contributing to and being appreciated by people in their community.
- **Power and autonomy.** When a person has the ability to have control over their life, to make choices, and to influence larger policies and actions that affect their future.

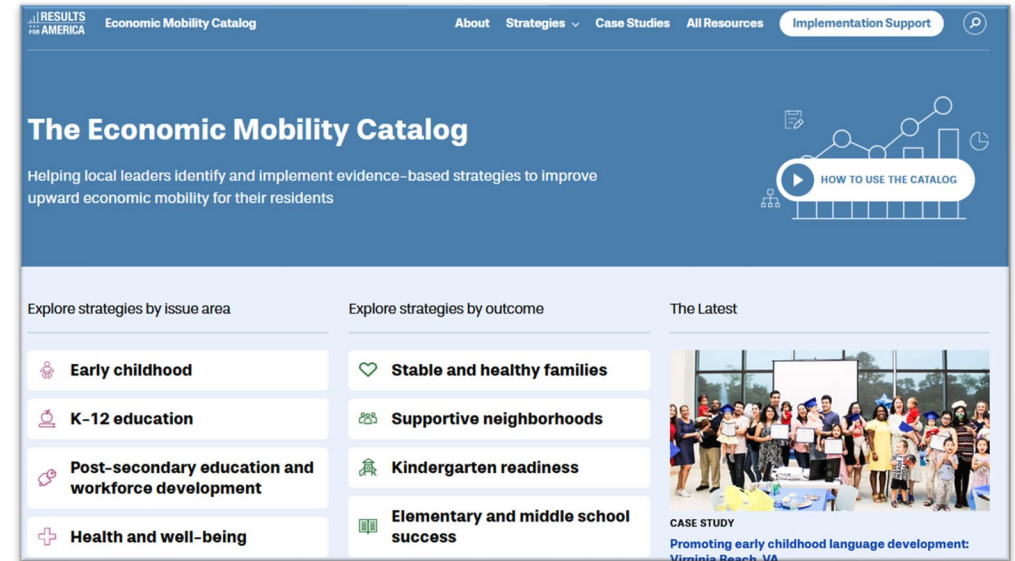
Urban Institute,  
[Upward Mobility](#)  
[Framework](#)



# KEY FOCUS AREAS

Borrowed from Results for America's [Economic Mobility Catalog](#):

- Early childhood
- Post-secondary education and workforce development
- Health and well-being
- Justice and public safety
- Housing and community development
- Financial security



Browse the full catalog →



# PEER LEARNING COHORT & GRANT OPPORTUNITY

# PEER LEARNING COHORT BASICS

- 15 local governments; 2 participants per local government
- Two in-person convenings, travel expenses paid
  - First in-person convening in Washington, D.C. on June 26-28, 2024
  - Second in-person convening in January 2025, location TBD
- Monthly virtual check ins
- Access to additional virtual and/or in-person learning opportunities
- \$20,000 grant to implement an economic mobility assessment, planning, engagement process, or other project

# WHO SHOULD APPLY

- Applications must be submitted by U.S. local government entities and identify a team of two participating representatives.
- Teams must include the local government's chief administrative officer (CAO) or assistant chief administrative officer (ACAO).
- Other project team members may include additional staff, elected officials, chamber members, representatives of other community partners, etc.
- Teams must include at least one ICMA member
- No restrictions for local government size or demographics
- While extensive prior experience is not required, we are looking for indications of willingness to grow and apply learnings from this cohort even if you are currently still building capacity.

# SELECTION CRITERIA

- Applications will be reviewed to create a well-rounded cohort representing geographic, demographic, and economic diversity across the participating local governments. Additional evaluation criteria include:
  - Strength of participation team/staff capacity
  - Projected impact of participation
  - Demonstrated commitment to improving economic mobility and opportunity for their residents.
- Upon selection, local governments will be required to submit a completed W-9, a vendor application with contact and tax information, and a brief due diligence questionnaire on local government activities and finances. Funding for travel to the June in-person cohort meeting may not be disbursed until this paperwork has been received.



# APPLICATION CONTENT

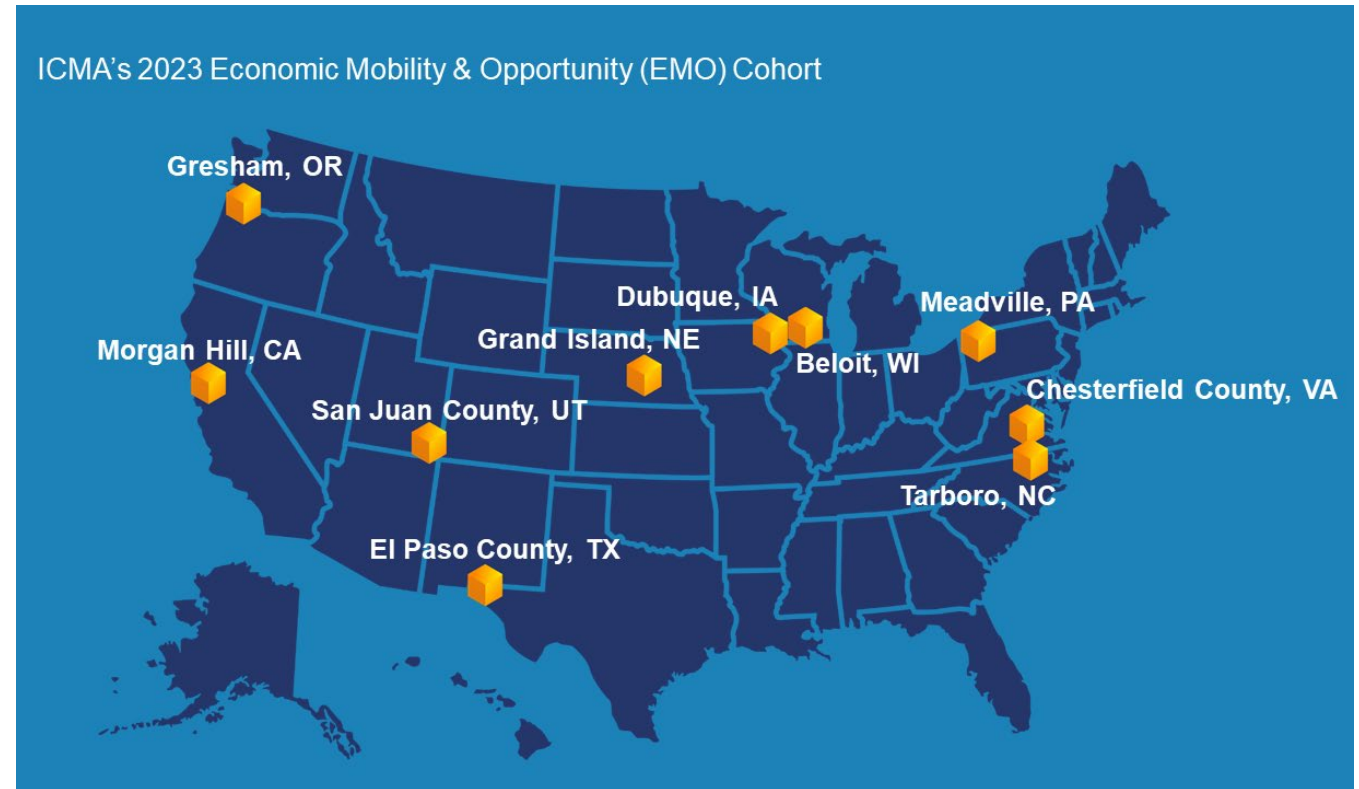
- Local government demographic info and participant info
- How your local government currently prioritizes economic mobility, if applicable
- Current challenges or barriers to upward economic mobility within your community
- Focus areas for your local government's proposed work
- How your local government would spend the \$20,000 in grant funds to address economic mobility and opportunity within your community
- What you hope to gain from participating in this cohort
- Full application information and questions available at [icma.org/emo](https://icma.org/emo)

# USE OF GRANT FUNDS

- Typical projects include an assessment, planning, or engagement process related to one or more economic mobility and opportunity themes.
- Focus areas could be comprehensive and/or targeted to issues such as workforce housing, childcare access, community health, neighborhood cleanup, broadband access, etc.
- Eligible costs would typically include:
  - Core personnel
  - Consultants for facilitation, planning, data collection and analysis
  - Stakeholder engagement with community organizations, residents, and other partners
  - Costs associated with early implementation of an action plan
- Award of funding is subject to a final project budget and scope of work approved by ICMA

# EXAMPLES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

- We strongly encourage all applicants to review the [2023 Cohort webpage](#) to see what previous participants have completed within similar parameters.
- Previous project examples:
  - Childcare action plan
  - Community needs assessment
  - Housing study
  - Service gap analysis



# EXAMPLES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



**El Paso County, TX**  
Childcare Services and Workforce  
Development



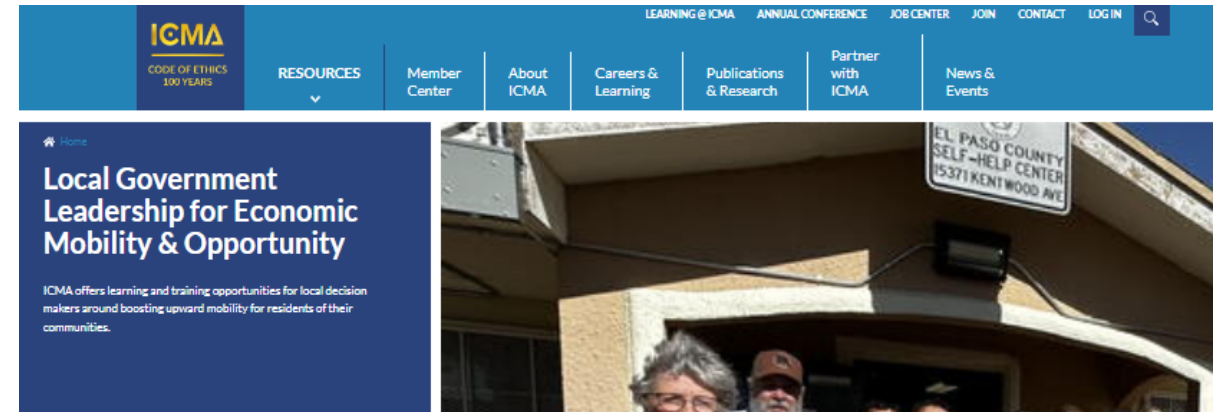
**Chesterfield County, VA**  
Young Adult and ESL Engagement



**Dubuque, IA**  
Intercultural Enrichment

# HOW TO APPLY

- Online at [icma.org/emo](https://icma.org/emo)
- PDF outlining these instructions and application questions is available for download
- You can start an application and continue revising until the deadline. You need to “Submit” to save each version and a personalized link will be generated and sent to your primary application contact.
- Email [emo@icma.org](mailto:emo@icma.org) with any problems or questions



## 2024 PEER LEARNING COHORT AND GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION IS OPEN

ICMA invites local governments to apply for the 2024 Economic Mobility and Opportunity (EMO) Peer Learning Cohort and grant program. This is a unique networking opportunity for ICMA members to receive training, coaching, and funding to effect conditions that promote overall well-being and upward mobility of their residents. ICMA will select teams from up to 15 local governments to make up the 2024 EMO Cohort. Each selected local government will receive a grant of \$20,000 for the implementation of an economic mobility assessment, planning or engagement process, or other local activity as part of their participation in the cohort. This opportunity is made possible with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Brief applications are being accepted now through May 10.

[REGISTER FOR APRIL 24 Q&A SESSION WITH PROGRAM STAFF](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS \(PDF\)](#)

[APPLY THROUGH THE ONLINE FORM](#)



## View Tools and Resources to Boost Upward Mobility in Local Communities

Access guidance from ICMA and our partners on identifying, refining, and advancing local priorities for increasing upward mobility and decreasing inequities.

[LEARN MORE](#)



ICMA's Economic Mobility and Opportunity (EMO) Cohort and grant program is a unique networking opportunity for ICMA members to receive training, coaching, and funding to effect conditions that promote overall well-being and upward mobility of their residents. This opportunity is made possible with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Please fill out the following questions to submit your application to be a member of the 2024 ICMA Economic Mobility and Opportunity Cohort.

Application deadline is May 10, 2024, 5:00pm EST.

Applications may be revised up to the deadline. You will need to click through to the submit button at the end of the application to ensure your changes are saved.



Participant 1  
(CAO/CAAO) name

Title

Email address  
**(important! this is the email address to which all correspondence about your application will be sent)**



CC email  
correspondence to address (optional; the address listed above is your primary contact email)

Phone number

ICMA membership status

Brief bio

# ANTICIPATED TIMELINE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- April 15, 2024: Application opened
- May 10, 2024 (5:00 pm EST): Application closes
- May 20, 2024: Selected local governments notified
- May 30, 2024: Cohort orientation virtual kick-off
- June 26-28, 2024: In-person cohort meeting in Washington, D.C.
- June 2024 – January 2025: Ongoing coaching/learning opportunities; monthly virtual calls
- January 2025: Second in-person cohort meeting, location TBD



# 2023 COHORT TESTIMONIALS

- *The biggest takeaway, I would have to say, from being part of this Cohort, is understanding that all cities and counties have the same issues, and that by us coming together, we're able to provide other cities and counties with different ideas on how to solve these issues.*
- *The participation in the cohort allowed us to form a network of empathetic, motivated partners who can share ideas and resources. The grant funding provided data that we had long needed by unbiased experts that will be able to leverage further funding and policy changes.*
- *[The cohort has] given us some other avenues to look at as far as opportunities, connections, and partnerships that we wouldn't have thought of otherwise, that are going to be available for us to really benefit not just at the government level, but across the community.*

# Q&A

- Apply online at [icma.org/emo](https://icma.org/emo)
- Application deadline: Friday, May 10, 2024 (5:00 pm EST)
- Email [emo@icma.org](mailto:emo@icma.org) with any problems or questions
- Suggest starting early in case of any issues!