



Local Government
REIMAGINED

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

2024 ICMA Economic Mobility and Opportunity Cohort and Grant

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

ICMA's Economic Mobility and Opportunity (EMO) Cohort is a unique and rare networking opportunity for ICMA members to receive training, technical assistance, and funding to inform policies and effect conditions that promote overall well-being and upward mobility for their residents. This opportunity is made possible with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The goals of this opportunity are to 1) increase local decision-makers' understanding of drivers of and barriers to mobility and opportunity and 2) support local leaders in identifying and implementing actions to advance upward mobility for residents of their communities.

ICMA plans to select teams from up to 15 local governments to make up the 2024 EMO Cohort. The selected local governments will each 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. To support these activities, between June 2024 and January 2025, teams will participate in regular virtual and in-person learning opportunities and access guidance from ICMA staff and subject matter experts about practical tools and resources to apply within their community.

ELIGIBILITY

- 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 (CAAO). 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.

IDEAL TEAM MEMBERS

- Local decision-makers who are committed to improving economic outcomes for residents.
- Interested in exploring a wide range of themes related to economic mobility such as housing, post-secondary education/workforce development, and addressing intergenerational poverty.
- Willing and enthusiastic participants in discussion and learning opportunities.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

- Attendance of both participants at two in-person events, with travel costs for two (2) participants per local government covered by ICMA. **The first event is scheduled for June 19-21 in Washington, D.C.**
- Team participation in monthly virtual cohort calls of up to 90 minutes each.
- Submission of a scope of work and budget for use of grant funds, with funding awarded following approval from ICMA.
- Fulfillment of reporting and evaluation requests from ICMA staff and funder by stated deadlines.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the cohort, submit an application via the [online form](#) (also accessible via icma.org/emo) by the deadline, **5:00 pm EST on May 10, 2024**. Application questions are provided for reference in this document beginning on the following page.

Once an application has been created and submitted, you may continue to update your submission until the application closes at 5:00 pm EST on Friday, May 10, 2024. Instructions on how to access and update your initial submission will be emailed to the primary contact identified in your application.

SELECTION PROCESS

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.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

- April 15, 2024: Application opens
- April 26, 2024: Information and Q&A session via Zoom
- May 10, 2024 (5:00 pm EST): Application closes
- May 20, 2024: Selected local governments notified (subject to change)
- May 30, 2024: Cohort orientation virtual kick-off
- June 19-21, 2024: In-person cohort meeting in Washington, D.C.
- June 2024 – January 2025: Ongoing coaching and learning opportunities; monthly virtual calls
- January 2025: Second in-person cohort meeting, location TBD

CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding eligibility, participation, or project requirements, please contact us at emo@icma.org.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Applications should be submitted via the [online form](#) (also accessible via icma.org/emo). If you cannot submit via the form, contact emo@icma.org prior to the May 10, 2024, deadline to coordinate and confirm submission via email.

The information requested in the online application is previewed below for your planning purposes.

1. Local Government Information

Name of local government

State

2020 Census population

2020 Census median household income

Percentage of households below 200% Federal Poverty Level

Current annual general fund budget

2. Local Government Representatives / Cohort Participants

Please provide the requested information for each proposed participant from your community. In addition to your CAO or ACAO, project team members may include additional staff, elected officials, chamber members, representatives of other community partners, etc. **Attendance at the two in-person meetings is required and travel expenses will be covered for the two participants.** The expectation of the full team is to participate in all monthly calls.

Participant 1 Information: This must be the chief administrative officer or assistant chief administrative officer of your local government. This individual will be the primary contact for your application for all correspondence via the email address you provide. You may designate a second email address to receive copies of these communications

Participant 1 (CAO or ACAO)

Name

Title

Email address

CC correspondence to address

Phone number

ICMA membership status

Brief bio

Participant 2

Name

Title

Email address

ICMA membership status

Brief bio

3. **How does your local government currently prioritize upward mobility and opportunity for residents? Please describe and/or link to any existing strategic goals, plans, staffing, programs, etc. addressing economic mobility. 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. (2,000-character limit)**

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- a. If applicable, please describe any prior training and/or technical assistance that your local government or members of your team have received relating to economic mobility.
4. **What current challenges does your community face that create barriers between your residents and upward economic mobility? Describe any specific needs of and/or segment(s) of your population that you anticipate focusing on through participation in this program.** (2,000-character limit)
5. **From the list below (borrowed from Results for America's [Economic Mobility Catalog](#)), which do you envision as highest priority issue area(s) for your proposed work through this program?** *While many areas may be impacted and of interest, please select up to three of these broad themes that best align with your proposed work.*
 - a. Early childhood
 - b. Post-secondary education and workforce development
 - c. Health and well-being
 - d. Justice and public safety
 - e. Housing and community development
 - f. Financial security
6. While funding provided through this opportunity is flexible, the implementation timeline for local activities is relatively short. 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, or other priorities. Eligible costs would typically include: core personnel; consultants for facilitation, planning, data collection and analysis; stakeholder engagement with community organizations, residents and other partners; or costs associated with early implementation of action plan.

We strongly encourage all applicants to review the [2023 Cohort webpage](#) to see what previous participants have completed within similar parameters. Please note that, if selected, award of funding is subject to a final project budget and scope of work approved by ICMA.

What are your preliminary thoughts on how your local government would utilize the \$20,000 in grant funding to address economic mobility and opportunity within your community? (2,000-character limit)

7. **What do your team members hope to gain from participating in this cohort? Given your roles, how would this experience best enhance your capacity to serve your community?** (2,000-character limit)