

2021 Local Government Research Fellowship

Frequently Asked Questions

For clarification or additional questions, please contact:
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RESEARCH TOPICS AND METHODOLOGY

Are you more interested in the conceptual idea, the methodological approach, or both?

Both; we are interested in good ideas first and foremost, of which methodological approach is an important component. We may work with selected fellows to refine methodological approaches. In developing your proposal, it will be helpful to have considered potential challenges or alternatives.

Can the project cover more than one topic?

Yes.

Would it be possible to collaborate/build on an existing ICMA research activity? Where can we go to find out more about previous ICMA research?

Proposals that suggest a new, novel approach to a topic ICMA has investigated in the past are welcome, as are proposals on topics where ICMA has done little to no research. Visit icma.org/research and icma.org/research-reports-and-publications to browse examples of research topics and outputs.

Is it possible to access existing ICMA survey datasets?

In most cases, access to survey data is possible, though some may have specific restrictions based on the funder or partner.

Can the research be a continuation of existing work, or must it be a new project?

Either is fine. If a continuation of existing work, we would hope that to the extent possible, the proposal clarify what new research/outputs/outcomes would be made possible through this next phase.

APPLICANTS

Is this intended to fund a specific category of researcher, e.g., students?

No. We welcome proposals from researchers of all types, and we don't have specific expectations for years of experience, degrees, positions held, etc. We'll be looking at how your qualifications demonstrate that you'll be successful in conducting the research proposed.

Do you have expectations for the amount of time or level of effort fellows should expect to commit?

Fellowships will be awarded for a six-month period, but this is not meant to occupy one's entire time. We don't have specific expectations other than what it takes you to develop a well thought out, practitioner-oriented research piece; this is not a specific LOE- or FTE-driven approach.

Are cross-institutional teams or other group projects eligible to apply?

Yes, though only one stipend would be awarded to the project.

Are private sector proposals or partnerships with the private sector eligible projects?

Yes.

Do I need to be an ICMA member to apply?

No.

FUNDING

Are there any restrictions on how funds can be distributed or used?

Working with ICMA's Finance and Contract Administration team in establishing agreements with fellows, our intention is to be as flexible as possible. [Here is an example of contract general](#) provisions from past Fellow agreements.

The awards can be made directly to individuals or through an employer. If an employer imposes an indirect cost, however, that would be deducted from the total stipend.

It will generally be up to the fellows' discretion how funds are used—some examples could include summer salary, a leave of absence, hiring research assistants, or other direct expenses.

REVIEW PROCESS

What is the anticipated timing for review and decision-making?

We anticipate reviewing proposals as described in the RFA and making selections by mid-May, 2021.