



2025 Housing Solutions Workshop

Call for Applications

Click here to apply by August 29, 2025.

Overview

The NYU Furman Center's Housing Solutions Lab (Lab) is pleased to invite applications to the Housing Solutions Workshop (Workshop) from interested small and midsize cities, towns, and counties—those with populations between 50,000 and 500,000. The Workshop is designed to help them develop **comprehensive and balanced housing strategies** in order to address affordability and other housing challenges in their communities.

A comprehensive and balanced local housing strategy is vital for identifying and coordinating the data, policies, and stakeholders needed to meet housing needs. This strategy should clearly define a jurisdiction's housing objectives, include a balanced set of policies to achieve them, and set numerical goals for tracking progress.

A coordinated local effort to address a jurisdiction's housing challenges is even more crucial in the context of our shifting federal landscape, marked by proposed changes in federal housing funding and policies. Insights from the Housing Solutions Lab will encourage participants to proactively leverage innovative local policies and funding sources that can advance housing goals in the face of federal budget cuts.

Why Small and Midsize Cities?

The lack of affordable, quality housing is a significant threat to the quality of life and economic vitality in small and midsize cities; however, their reduced bureaucratic constraints allow for bold, effective action. The Housing Solutions Lab at the NYU Furman Center aids these communities in developing evidence-based housing policies that promote racial equity and enhance access to opportunities.

Application Process and Timeline

August 29, 2025	Submission deadline
September 11-15, 2025	Interviews with finalists
September 20, 2025	Selection notification
October 6-27, 2025 Monday and Thursdays	Attendance at workshop (Zoom)
November-December, 2025	One-on-one technical support

Questions? Contact Nora Carrier (nora.carrier@nyu.edu),
City Engagement and Research Associate.

About the Housing Solutions Lab

The Housing Solutions Lab at the NYU Furman Center works with cities across the country to design, monitor, and evaluate promising local housing policies. With funding support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Lab seeks to help cities advance evidence-based local housing policies that promote racial equity; increase access to opportunity; and support resident health and well-being. The Lab serves cities of all sizes, with a focus on small and midsize cities (those with populations of 50,000 to 500,000).

Learn more about the Housing Solutions Lab's focus on small and midsize cities here.

About the Workshop

The Housing Solutions Workshop will include seven 120-minute virtual training sessions from October 6 through October 27, 2025, and an option for individual technical assistance sessions with Workshop facilitators on a case-by-case basis. The seven main sessions will meet on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the month from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), with the exception of the week of Indigenous Peoples' Day, when the Monday session will be held on Tuesday, October 14. There is no cost to participate in the Workshop.

Sessions will include presentations from facilitators and peer jurisdictions, along with small and large group discussions. The goal is to promote the exchange of ideas among participants and help teams work towards initiating or refining their own local housing strategies. Each delegation will also join dedicated sessions with Housing Solutions Lab facilitators to further discuss policy topics specific to its housing goals. By the end of the Workshop, participants will (a) have a solid understanding of how to develop or refine a local housing strategy, (b) have taken initial steps toward this work, including deepening collaboration and coordination among city agencies, and (c) have determined an action plan for progressing after the Workshop. Past participants have gone on to conduct housing needs assessments and successfully implement local housing strategies. Read more about the [City of Bethlehem's Comprehensive Housing Plan](#).

The Workshop will combine asynchronous learning, group discussions with peer localities, and working sessions in which each jurisdiction focuses on its specific housing challenges and develops its policy toolkit. Participants will:

- Learn to use federal and local data to assess housing needs.
- Link objectives and policies using the Lab's Housing Policy Framework.
- Explore local funding mechanisms to help address housing supply, affordability, and quality.
- Identify options for strengthening local housing strategies and improving coordination across departments and agencies.
- Participate in small group discussions with peer jurisdictions to obtain feedback and exchange ideas for optimizing policy toolkits.
- Discover ways to engage residents and local and cross-sectoral stakeholders to build buy-in for local housing efforts and increase transparency on next steps and progress.

Criteria for Localities to Apply

Cities and counties in the early stages of developing a local housing strategy will benefit the most from the Workshop. Applicants must demonstrate a strong commitment to developing a new comprehensive and balanced local housing strategy or refining a strategy that is outdated or narrowly focused.

To be considered for the Housing Solutions Workshop, jurisdictions must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Be a small or midsize city, town, or county in the United States (population between 50,000-500,000) that has not recently developed a comprehensive local housing strategy. Joint applications—for example, one city and the surrounding county or two adjacent jurisdictions located in one county—will also be considered.
2. Identify a delegation of five to six participants from local agencies or partner organizations to participate in the training who demonstrate a commitment to working collaboratively towards achieving their housing goals. At least four participants should represent senior leadership with decision-making authority to influence and advance the strategies developed during the training in their communities and organizations.
3. Exemplify an interest in developing or refining a comprehensive local housing strategy, including evidence of recent steps pursued by the jurisdiction towards that goal or specific housing policies, even if those policies have not been put into action yet. Cities may also have adopted a housing strategy in the past that requires updating or refinement. Jurisdictions should be poised to take meaningful next steps after the workshop.

Recommended Makeup of City Teams

Four to five cities, towns, or counties with populations of 50,000 - 500,000 will be selected to participate in the Workshop. Smaller jurisdictions are strongly encouraged to apply.

Since housing policy tools fall within the jurisdiction of multiple local agencies and departments, this work is necessarily an interagency effort. Team composition is up to each jurisdiction but must include five to six participants—generally, heads or deputies—of city/county or partner agencies that are critical actors in the development of a comprehensive, balanced, and coordinated local housing strategy. Applicants may also choose participants from external partners that are essential to and closely involved in the city's or county's housing strategy. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include among their delegations:

- Both the public housing authority that serves the city/county and the city/county agency most involved in the production of affordable rental housing (usually the housing department or redevelopment agency).
- Other local government agencies, such as the planning department, planning or zoning commission, continuum of care, local housing finance agency, or a special purpose agency set up to oversee the implementation of a neighborhood or area plan or tax increment financing (TIF) district.
- Other departments or agencies, nonprofit organizations, or legislative leaders, as long as they are key actors whose collaboration is needed to advance and implement the locality's housing strategy. Nonprofit partners may include organizations that advocate for local housing policies or implement housing programs, developers of affordable housing, and foundations supporting housing, economic and community development efforts.
- The coordinating official in localities with a chief housing officer or in which the mayor or city manager's office otherwise plays an active role in coordinating housing policies across agencies.

Each delegation must identify one leader to serve as the primary point of contact for the Workshop (named on the application form). All participants should be prepared to actively engage in all Workshop sessions and be enthusiastic about shared learning, problem-solving, and networking with colleagues from around the country. The estimated time commitment is six to eight hours per week, and jurisdictions should be poised to take meaningful next steps after the workshop.

Submission Process

Cities and counties interested in participating in the Housing Solutions Workshop must submit a complete application using the [online application form](#) by August 29, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please check the [Application FAQs](#) or submit any questions about the process to City Engagement and Research Associate, Nora Carrier (nora.carrier@nyu.edu), by Monday, August 23, 2025. We cannot guarantee a timely response to questions submitted after that date.

Proposed delegations will be invited to participate in a virtual interview between September 11-22, 2025. Delegations will be notified of their participation selection by September 22, 2025.

[View the Application.](#)