

Cit Foundation Community Finance Innovation Fund Request for Ideas (RFI)

Note: This PDF document has been provided so that you can save your work while preparing your submission. You must input your answers in the online form [here](#) and submit the completed online form before the deadline in order for your idea to be considered. The Citi Foundation will not accept submissions via email. Please save a copy of the completed PDF form for your own records.

Submission Deadline: November 5, 2024 – 12:00 p.m. (noon) New York Time (Eastern Time)

The Citi Foundation seeks innovative ideas to advance the field of community development finance, specifically affecting CDFIs, in the United States. A subset of the organizations that complete this RFI will be invited to submit a grant application. Please review the Community Finance Innovation Fund (CFIF) FAQ, which provides guidance on the intent of the Fund and how best to approach completing this RFI.

BASIC INFORMATION

Tax ID #
Organization Name
Street Address
Street Address 2
City
County
Country
State/Province
Zip/Postal Code
Website Address

Please provide a separate primary and secondary contact. These contacts should be separate people with separate email addresses. If possible, please provide email addresses associated with your organization's URL rather than a personal account on Gmail, Yahoo, AOL, etc. If possible, please provide specific individuals' email addresses rather than generic, shared accounts such as info@ or grants@ email addresses.

Primary Contact

First Name
Last Name
Position Title
Email Address
Phone Number

Secondary Contact

First Name
Last Name
Position Title
Email Address

ORGANIZATION DETAILS

As noted in the FAQ document, fiscally sponsored projects are not eligible for funding as part of this RFI. Please confirm:

My organization is not fiscally sponsored, and my organization is not applying on behalf of a fiscally sponsored entity.

Is your organization a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)?

Note that CDFI certification is not a requirement for this funding opportunity.

Briefly describe your organization's history and top strategic priorities. Please include an example of how your organization has had a measurable impact on advancing financial inclusion or financial health in low-income communities as a CDFI or in partnership with CDFIs. (Maximum 2000 characters)

What is your organization's current fiscal year operating budget?

How many individuals did your organization serve directly last year?

PROJECT IDEA DETAILS

Please provide a short name for your proposed project idea. (Maximum 25 characters)

Please provide a high-level, one sentence description for your proposed project idea. (Maximum 200 characters)

Proposed Citi Foundation Funding Request:

Proposed grant period:

PROJECT IDEA TARGET & SCOPE

Would the proposed work be primarily local, regional or national in nature?

- Local: single neighborhood or city
- Regional: multi-city or state (up to three states)
- National: four or more states

Please indicate which of the Citi Foundation's target geographies will be impacted by the proposed project. [You will be able to select as many geographies as needed in the online form from among the following geographies and an "other" option.]

State/Territory	Counties
California	Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Marin, Merced, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Ventura
Connecticut	Fairfield
Florida	Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach
Illinois	Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will
Maryland	Montgomery, Prince George
New Jersey	Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic
New York	Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Westchester
Nevada	Clark
Puerto Rico	Territory-wide
South Dakota	State-wide
Virginia	Alexandria City, Arlington, Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church City
Washington, D.C.	District of Columbia

CONDITIONAL IF “OTHER” SELECTED IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE QUESTION:
If serving additional geographies beyond the target geographies selected above, please describe, including specific states/counties. (Maximum 1000 characters)

Please select the primary category your idea falls within:

- **Human Capital and Talent Development**, such as efforts to advance the talent pipeline and career advancement possibilities within the field of community finance
- **Products and Services**, such as the development of new products or services; or intentional efforts to extend the delivery of financial services, products, and practices to low-income communities.
- **Technology and Operational Efficiencies**, such as efforts to improve CDFI performance and impact through the use of technology, data collection, and operational advancements.

Which project scope below most aligns with the intent of your program?

- **Pilot/New:** Funding is being sought to design a new approach or pilot a new idea
- **Expand /Scale:** Funding is being sought to expand or scale an existing/proven innovative approach or solution, either by going deeper with the effort or wider in terms of reach

COMMUNITY FINANCE IDEA

What is the financial inclusion and/or financial health challenge impacting low-income communities that your organization seeks to address? *(Maximum 5000 characters)*

What is your organization's idea for addressing the above-defined challenge, and how would support from the Community Finance Innovation Fund enable your organization to implement your idea? If your organization has previously received a Community Finance Innovation Fund grant, please include how this proposed project differs from or advances the previously funded project. *(Maximum 5000 characters)*

Describe what makes your proposed program innovative. Please elaborate on the innovative aspects of your proposed project, emphasizing the project idea's potential to advance financial inclusion and/or financial health in low-income communities. *(Maximum 1000 characters)*

PROJECT IDEA GOALS & RESULTS

What is the anticipated impact your organization hopes to achieve through your proposed project, especially related to low-income communities and individuals? Describe the metrics you will use to measure the impact. If your project idea has the potential to help close the racial wealth gap, please describe. *(Maximum 2000 characters)*

Further describe the individuals, small businesses and/or organizations that your organization would serve during this project. *(Maximum 2000 characters)*

Please include details regarding your target beneficiaries (e.g., demographics, market segment, etc.).

How many individuals will this project serve directly during the grant period?

Enter 0 if this is not a goal of your project.

If a goal of this project is to build the capacity of other organizations (i.e., microfinance institutions, CDFIs, community development organizations, etc.) how many organizations do you plan to serve directly during the grant period?

Enter 0 if this is not a goal of your project.

Please provide a brief budget narrative describing how you would propose to utilize support from the Citi Foundation. (Maximum 2000 characters)

If the total proposed project budget amount exceeds the proposed Citi Foundation funding request, please provide information on other funding already secured or describe the plan to secure the remainder needed.

Would the implementation of this project involve regranting of the proposed Citi Foundation Funds?

Regranting pertains to cases in which Citi Foundation funds are redistributed as grants to another organization, including local affiliates. Vendor payments for specific goods or services are not considered regrants.

CONDITIONAL IF YES:

What is the anticipated approximate dollar amount of Citi Foundation funds to be regranting?

If known, please list the organizations that would receive funds. If unknown at this time, please describe how you will identify organizations to receive funding.

TERMS

Citi Foundation will consider all eligible applications submitted. Qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to any protected basis prohibited by applicable U.S. law.

I understand that this submission does not constitute an offer, promise or guarantee of funding from the Citi Foundation, Citigroup Inc., or any of its subsidiaries. The existence of any past, current, or the promise of any potential business relationships with Citi or Citi subsidiaries does not influence grant decisions and mention of such relationships may disqualify this submission.

I certify that my organization is a 501(c)(3) public charity. This funding opportunity is open only to 501(c)(3) public charities that meet the criteria listed in the FAQ document.

I certify that my organization can provide externally audited financial documents that meet the following criteria:

- *Must include some part of calendar year 2023 or a subsequent year*
- *Must include the auditor's letter with a signature*
- *Must include complete financial statements*
- *Must include the auditor's notes*

I ACCEPT THE TERMS.