



Philadelphia2050 Community Partner Opportunity - Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in the Philadelphia2050 Community Partner Opportunity! Please find the Call for Community Partners and instructions for how to apply for this opportunity on the [Philadelphia City Fund Website](#).

1. What is the Department of Planning and Development and the Philadelphia City Planning Commission?

The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) works in collaboration with communities to promote, plan, preserve, and develop successful neighborhoods for all. The Philadelphia City Planning Commission is part of this Department and acts as a bridge between the public and the government.

The Planning Commission guides investment and growth in Philadelphia with the goal to create neighborhoods that are well-connected, affordable, and desirable places to live and work. As outlined in the City's charter, the Planning Commission oversees multiple areas of work, including maintaining and updating the Comprehensive Plan.

2. What is a comprehensive plan and why do we need one?

The Comprehensive Plan is a roadmap for the future of our city. It helps the City decide how to use land, improve public infrastructure like road and public spaces, shape policies, and more. It is built on the ideas, needs, and hopes of Philadelphia residents.

3. What is the difference between Philadelphia2035 and Philadelphia2050?

[Philadelphia2035](#) is the current comprehensive plan. It consists of two parts: the Citywide Vision and 17 District Plans. The Citywide Vision was completed in 2011, and the last of the District Plans was completed in 2018. Comprehensive plans typically look 25 years into the future. Our current plan -- Philadelphia 2035 -- started in 2010, and this is why the update, starting in 2025, is called Philadelphia2050.

As part of the update, we will evaluate what recommendations in Phial2035 should remain, what are missing, and what has already been accomplished.

4. What will the Comprehensive Plan cover and what will it not cover?

As the plan for Philadelphia's future, the comprehensive plan will cover a variety of topics including housing, transportation, neighborhoods and community facilities, economic development, health and safety, climate resilience, land use, and more.

Comprehensive plans focus on guiding principles and long-term objectives for growth and development. They typically do not contain detailed plans for individual projects or developments.

5. Who would make a good Community Partner?

Community Partners should be community groups or organizations either made up of Philadelphians or doing work in Philadelphia. Strong Community Partner applicants will be community-based organization with deep connections to their community(ies). They will show creativity and adaptability in how they communicate with and engage their community(ies). They will also demonstrate that they either have skills in getting input from their community(ies) or have a strong appetite to learn how to engage their community(ies) for this project.

The Planning Commission especially encourages applications from community groups whose members identify with or work closely with residents who have the following identities or experiences:

- Racial or ethnic minorities
- Foreign-born or immigrant communities
- Limited English proficiency
- Low-income households
- LGBTQ+ individuals
- People with disabilities
- Impacted by the criminal justice system
- Homelessness or housing insecurity
- Youth or caregivers for youth
- Elder or caregivers for elders

6. Is the Community Partner Program a grant?

This is a funded partnership, but it is technically not a grant. Instead of signing a grant agreement, selected Community Partners and the Planning Commission will sign a legal document called a Memorandum of Understanding, or an MOU. MOUs allow for a more equal partnership by writing out what the Planning Commission can expect from the Community Partner as well as what the Community Partner can expect from the Planning Commission. Although this is not a grant, part of the partnership agreement does include that the Planning Commission will provide funding through the City Fund to the Community Partner for their work.

7. How will Community Partners be compensated?

Community Partners will be given \$15,000 at the beginning of the partnership. Community Partners who have opted for the 18-month partnership and have met the partnership requirements will be given a second round of funding of \$15,000 in April 2026, at the mid-point of the partnership. Community Partners can request reimbursement for additional costs for translation/interpretation, childcare, and trainings. See the Call for Community Partners on the [Philadelphia City Fund website](#) for the amount of funding available for these additional activities.

8. Are groups able to apply together?

Yes, groups are allowed to join together to apply to be a single Community Partner.

9. My organization is very connected to my community but has not hosted community engagement events before. Should we still apply?

Yes! You do not have to have experience doing community engagement to apply. Community Partners will have meetings with program staff and attend a tailored Citizens Planning Institute course to learn how to do engagement and create an engagement plan.

10. I am a part of an organization that is made up of people of a common identity or interest from all over the city. Can my organization apply?

Yes! If your group meets the eligibility requirements outlined in the application, your group may apply.

11. When is the application due?

The Community Partner Application is due by Friday, May 30th at 11:59pm.

12. How will Community Partners be selected?

Applications will be reviewed by experts in community engagement and grant making and Philadelphia2050 Steering Committee members. Top applicants will be asked to host Planning Commission staff at their location or at a place in their community for a brief site visit and interview. The application and site visit will be used to determine which organizations will become a Community Partner. See the Call for Community Partners on the [Philadelphia City Fund website](#) for a detailed timeline.

13. How many Community Partners will we select?

The Planning Commission will select eight groups to be Community Partners.

14. Is the Community Partner Program the only way the Planning Commission will work with community groups or get input from residents?

No, the Community Partner Program is just one of many ways the Planning Commission will work with community groups and getting input from residents to update the Comprehensive Plan. Groups that are not selected to be Community Partners will be considered for other opportunities to engage their community and give input.

If you know a group or community leader who would like to be considered for other community engagement opportunities beyond the Community Partner Program, please fill out our [Recommend a Community Group or Leader for Engagement Form](#).

15. Will the Planning Commission be at engagement events hosted by Community Partner?

Community Partners may request that Planning Commission staff attend community engagement events for the whole event or for part of the event. Community Partners are not required to have Planning Commission staff attend.

Community Partners will be responsible for hosting their own engagement events and activities. Planning Commission staff will be available to consult with Community Partners on how to host engagement events and activities and will provide some materials and support, but Community Partners will be responsible for their own event and engagement activity logistics, note taking during events, and reporting of information. Planning Commission staff attendance is subject to staff availability.

16. Are there requirements for how many people each organization must engage?

No, there are no requirements for how many people each Community Partner must engage. Community Partners should show that they made a concerted effort to engage their community(ies) to the extent their capacity and the funding amount allows.

17. Do groups need to be a 501(c)3, LLC, or have a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor to be considered for other engagement opportunities beyond the Community Partnership Program?

Community Partners must be a 501(c)3, LLC, or fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)3, but these restrictions may not apply for other opportunities to work with the Planning Commission for engagement. If your group does not qualify to be a Community Partner, we encourage you to submit your information to be considered for other engagement opportunities using our [Recommend a Community Group or Leader for Engagement Form](#).

18. When will the 6-week Citizens Planning Institute course be held? How big is the time commitment?

The Citizens Planning Institute course will meet 6-9pm on Thursday nights for six weeks. The course is tentatively scheduled to take place from August 21-September 25.

19. Will the CPI course be in person, online, or hybrid?

This course will be held primarily in person to foster engagement and collaboration. However, we are exploring hybrid options and may incorporate online components if needed to accommodate participants. If you are interested in applying to be a Community Partner but would need an accommodation to be able to participate in this course, please email phila2050@phila.gov.

20. Who can I contact for more information?

Please email phila2050@phila.gov with any additional questions.