

# AN INNOVATION COHORT FOR ELGL LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

June 2019-June 2020



## SMALL PLACES, BIG IDEAS

### *WORLD-CLASS TECHNOLOGY*

UrbanLeap is a cloud-based innovation management platform that allows governments to coordinate all their smart urban initiatives in one place.

### *COLLABORATION & TRAINING*

ELGL is the premier membership organization for local governments across the US and around the world, leading a passionate, expert network.

### *DESIGNED FOR SMALL PLACES*

Designed to suit every budget, the program builds a team of innovators around the country who work together to iterate and scale solutions.

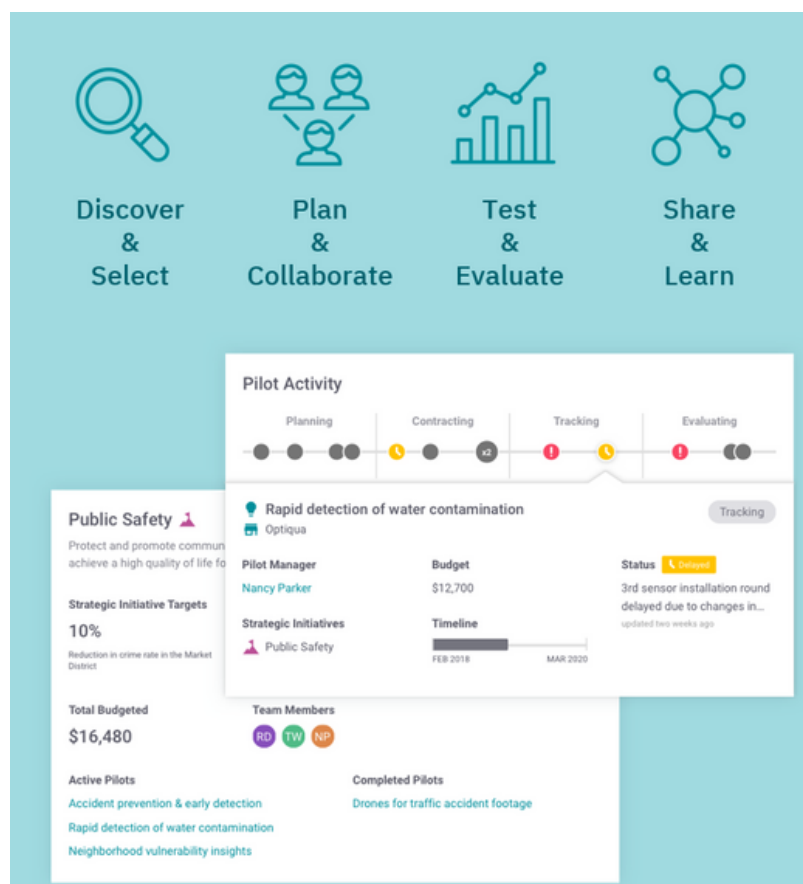
## Program Overview

ELGL and UrbanLeap have partnered to announce the inaugural Innovation Cohort for 2019, focused on Small Places with Big Ideas.

This project brings together innovators from smaller cities, counties, and towns to utilize the technological resources of UrbanLeap. Together, the group will identify a common local government issue to address, discover potential solutions, select a subset to pilot, and then share results, learning and best practices garnered from the development, implementation and evaluation of these pilot programs.

The Innovation Cohort is your opportunity to tap into the collective energy and intelligence of the ELGL network with the assistance of the UrbanLeap experience. You'll work with your Innovation Cohort to learn about new solutions, test them and learn from the experiences, and then figure out how to put those solutions into action in your small or rural community. Along the way, we've built out a support network founded in camaraderie, public service, good intentions, and best practices.

## Think of the Innovation Cohort as your new I-team - but spread across the country rather than in the building downstairs.



## What kinds of issues might the cohort tackle?

- Digital Divide
- Transportation & transit
- Procurement & purchasing
- Permitting
- Citizen engagement

The cohort will identify common issues and prioritize projects. Potential solutions will be tested and evaluated using a common innovation management platform to optimize collected resources and share learning.

## Who We Are



ELGL is a membership organization focused on engaging and educating local government leaders around the world. We have members working in local government in 50 states and six countries, and provide timely, relevant content, education, and networking opportunities to our members.



UrbanLeap is a cloud-based innovation management platform that allows governments to coordinate all of their smart urban initiatives in one place. It empowers cities to solicit ideas directly from the public and industry, pilot and test out those solutions prior to full-scale adoption, and share results and lessons learned with other like-minded cities and municipalities. We help cities deliver outcomes that matter - faster and with higher success rates.

## How the Cohort Works

The program runs for one-year and is limited to 25 organizations from U.S. cities, counties, and towns. An application is required, and applicants must engage at least one FTE or its equivalent as primary stakeholders in the project. Final selection will favor participants from towns with populations under 30,000 (although other applicants are encouraged to apply).

### The Cohort members will collaborate to identify and test innovative solutions to common challenges

#### Explore

- Select and scope priority issues
- Define outcomes & success criteria
- Identify potential solutions
- Solicit and evaluate proposals

#### Experiment

- Develop evaluation strategy/plan
- Distribute test elements to members
- Define KPIs and milestones
- Execute and track pilots

#### Share & Iterate

- Share results, assess solutions
- Capture best practices & learnings
- Plan full deployment for successes
- Discuss new approaches for failures

Cohort participants will work together to identify and prioritize the issues under consideration in the yearly program, and then to experiment with different solutions, share feedback, and discuss new approaches. The cohort will be required to fully engage in the ELGL subnetwork created for this Innovation Cohort including (but not limited to) collaborative tools through the UrbanLeap platform, the project's dedicated Slack channel, monthly webinars, content (blog and podcast) sharing, the fall ELGL regional conferencing/learning event (week of September 23, 2019), and participation in the #ELGL20 annual conference in May 2020.

## Program Deadlines & Costs

Applications Accepted April 5-May 10, 2019

Program Webinar: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 | 2:00 p.m.

Selections Announced: June 1, 2019 | Initial Cohort Meeting: June 15, 2019

Fall Regional Meetings: Week of Sept 23, 2020

Cohort Presentation at #ELGL20: May 13-15, 2020

Program Dates: June 15, 2019 – June 15, 2020

Applicants should fill out [this application form](#) to indicate their interest in the program and receive the link to the required program webinar, to be held on May 7, 2019.

### Total Program Cost: \$2,500

The program cost will be billed by UrbanLeap to each participating organization with Net 30 terms for payment. If a city chooses to opt out at any point in the program, prorated refunds will be available with a 30-day written notice. If your organization needs to split payment into two smaller payments, please email Emily at [emily@elgl.org](mailto:emily@elgl.org) outlining your needs.

## ONLINE APPLICATION FORM

If you can't select the link above, please copy and paste this link into your browser:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/H8sSIHJXdoE77CkB3>

### Steps to Apply for the Small Places, Big Ideas Innovation Cohort

1. Register for the program webinar at [anymeeting.com/PIID=ED58D884814E31](https://anymeeting.com/PIID=ED58D884814E31) no later than May 6, 2019.
2. Review & fill out the application form using the link above no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, May 10, 2019..
3. Attend the program webinar on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. EST.
5. Send any questions to Emily at [emily@elgl.org](mailto:emily@elgl.org).

### The Fine Print

Participants must be ELGL All-In or Supersize members. The number of proposals that can be evaluated is unlimited, but the number of active concurrent projects will be limited to two (2) per cohort member. Applicants must be from a city, town, or county government incorporated under the authority of their state's general statutes.

Each applicant should identify one program contact who will be the primary participant in cohort activities, although more than one person can be included. Each applicant must also provide the fiscal point of contact – preferably the chief executive of the organization – in order to apply.

Applicants from municipal or county governments serving a population of 30,000 or less according to the 2017 ACS census data will be given priority; rural agencies are specifically encouraged to apply.

Applicants are required to include a transition plan / backup contact in case the primary participant changes positions during the cohort's commitment period. Organizations are required to provide basic IT services to cohort participants, including access to a computer with a webcam and broadband internet, for the duration of the program.

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee made up of three ELGL board members and three of UrbanLeap's program team. Selections will be based on participant readiness, capacity, commitment to the project, and population served. ELGL and UrbanLeap reserve the right to conduct external PR & communications promoting the cohort participants, activities, and lessons learned. Cohort participants will have the opportunity to review marketing materials prior to release.