



ELGL Innovation Cohorts Program - 2020 Final Program Documents: September 29, 2019

Program Overview

ELGL and UrbanLeap have partnered to announce the 2020 Innovation Cohorts Program, which brings together innovators from cities, counties, and towns across the country to utilize UrbanLeap's innovation management platform to facilitate collaborative innovation projects.

The first 2020 Innovation Cohort focuses on Economic & Community Development and begins in January 2020.

Together, the group will identify a common local government issue to address, discover potential solutions, select a subset to pilot, and then share results, learnings and best practices garnered from the development, implementation and evaluation of these pilot programs.

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

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 across-the-country 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 community. Along the way, we've built out a support network founded in camaraderie, public service, good intentions, and best practices.

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.

Collaboration & Connection

ELGL will serve as the convening and training partner, providing online meetups and classes, social network sharing, and other resources to participants. ELGL is also playing the role of 'moderator' for the group. This includes guiding and leading the selection of priority areas; establishing desired outcomes and success criteria; parsing the challenge and selected projects across the cohort members; and managing logistics for the group. In this role, ELGL will host regular



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cohort check-ins, assist in storytelling & identification of best practices, and assist with the group's evaluation of its internal process and learning goals. UrbanLeap will guide the decision making process to ensure that selected projects, issues, and outcomes are relevant and valuable for all cohort participants.

Cohort participants 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,, bi-monthly online meetings and trainings, content sharing through blog and podcast posts, presentations at the fall and spring conferences when possible, and final sharing of results with the ELGL network.

UrbanLeap will provide access to their cloud-based innovation management platform for an unlimited number of users from the Cohort member cities, selected vendors, and other key stakeholders. The platform provides capabilities across the innovation lifecycle to discover, test, and share:

- Discover, collect and evaluate proposals all in one place.
- Explore the approaches taken and outcomes achieved by other cities addressing similar challenges.
- Streamline and standardize the submission and evaluation process across teams.
- Automate workflows across multiple departments and vendors to improve project success rates.
- Increase transparency and stakeholder engagement with automated reports and hard data on key project milestones and success metrics.
- Optimize resources within projects and across innovation portfolio based on outcomes.

In addition, Urbanleap will provide a dedicated Customer Success Manager (CSM) whose mission is to optimize the cohort's engagement with the platform and accelerate the outcomes of the projects. This includes a tailored onboarding program for users with multiple training sessions, as well as weekly working sessions with the cohort's leadership, advisors and key solution providers to define strategic objectives and track the progress of the projects.

The program runs for one-year and is limited to no more than 12 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.

Important Dates and Deadlines

2020 Cohort Launch: January 6, 2020

Applications Accepted: September 26-November 1, 2019

Program Webinar: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 | 2 pm EST



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This is an opportunity to learn more about UrbanLeap's platform and the Innovation Cohort program and to ask questions about potential projects and the process.

Final Applicant Questions & Confirmation: October 24-October 30, 2019

Selections Announced: November 12, 2019

Initial Cohort Kickoff Meeting: Monday, December 9, 2019

Payments Due to UrbanLeap: COB December 15, 2019

Program Dates: January 1, 2020-December 1, 2020

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

Fall Regional Presentations: week of Sept 23, 2020

Application Process

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 October 23, 2019.

Total Program Cost: \$3,000

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 outlining your needs.

The Fine Print

Participants must be ELGL All-In, Supersize, or Small Communities organizational 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, up to three POCs. Each applicant must also provide the fiscal point of contact – preferably the chief executive of the organization – in order to apply.



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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. **Webcam access and use will be required on most meetings.**

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.

Pilot Cost: Solution providers will be required to provide the estimated cost and resources required to execute a pilot as part of their proposal submission. The cohort members will decide if the costs of the pilot are acceptable and how to distribute those costs. It is expected that subsequent adoption and deployment of any solution by city members of the cohort will be negotiated separately by that city as appropriate.

Example:

Your city is looking to take on more projects in community development. At the moment, residents are most excited about a possible downtown revitalization project. However, other municipalities in the area have not taken on such an initiative before, which is making leaders concerned about feasibility. 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 across-the-country Innovation Cohort to learn about new community development solutions, test them and learn from the experiences, and then figure out how to put those solutions into action. Whether you are in a small city, large suburb, or booming county, we are excited for you to join the Cohort. Along the way, we've built out a support network founded in camaraderie, public service, good intentions, and best practices. You can lean on this network as your own i-team (but spread across the country, instead of in your town/city hall or county building).



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Application

Apply now by scheduling a 15-minute intake interview with ELGL & UrbanLeap at the link below!

<https://calendly.com/lets-innovate/15min>