



Reducing Homelessness in New York City

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST (LOIs)

LOIs are due Wednesday, June 15, 2022 by 6:00pm

Background

In January 2022, nearly 50,000 individuals and families were in city shelters and another estimated 4,000 city residents lived on the streets. People of color make up almost 90 percent of shelter residents (57 percent Black and 32 percent Latinx).¹ Homelessness is a complex challenge and reducing it requires coordinated efforts tied to the multiple causes of homelessness.

A lack of sustained public investments in affordable and supportive housing as well as administrative obstacles to accessing affordable housing and rental assistance are significant contributors to the City's homelessness crisis. The widening gap between rents and incomes often pushes low-income families and individuals into homelessness. Although the city has created affordable housing in recent years, much of it is not in fact affordable for New Yorkers who are already homeless, or have very low incomes. Mayor Adams recently announced a \$5 billion commitment over the next 10 years to address the city's lack of affordable housing. But unless it is available, easy-to-access, and truly affordable permanent and supportive housing, too many city residents will continue to experience homelessness.

Since 1924, The New York Community Trust (The Trust) has funded the nonprofits that make our city a vital and secure place for all New Yorkers to live and thrive. The Trust makes more than to \$50 million in competitive grants annually across three areas— Healthy Lives, Promising Futures and Thriving Communities. Under its Human Services grantmaking strategy, The Trust has supported policy advocacy, improved service delivery, program development, research, and organizational capacity building to alleviate homelessness in the city. These investments helped vulnerable populations of homeless New Yorkers— families with children, older adults, young people, veterans, and LGBTQ New Yorkers— secure permanent housing and stabilize their lives.

¹ DHS Data Dashboard Tables, Fiscal Year 2020, 4th Quarter, <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dhs/downloads/pdf/dashboard/tables/FY20-DHS-Data-Dashboard-Data.pdf>

The Opportunity

Building on past investments and the city's plans for the future, in the fall of 2022 The Trust expects to award at least \$1.5 million through this Request for Letters of Interest (LOIs) for projects where our modest resources can contribute to getting substantial numbers of unhoused New Yorkers into affordable permanent and supportive housing. **We will give preference to projects focused on policy and systemic change to:**

- increase public investments in permanent and supportive housing for both unhoused people and low-income community residents (e.g., mixed-population housing that benefits people who are homeless and the local community);
- eliminate or reduce administrative burdens and expedite access to existing and new permanent and supportive housing, as well as rental assistance, for unhoused individuals and families;
- expand rental assistance to underserved or excluded populations;
- expand alternatives to shelters for vulnerable populations (e.g., older adults, people with disabilities; young adults);
- improve service coordination to help formerly homeless individuals and families stay housed;
- improve collection, analysis, and dissemination of comprehensive, systemwide data on city shelter and transitional housing residents to inform planning and systems improvements.

Given The Trust's emphasis on systemic change, we will **NOT** consider requests for:

- capital projects (brick & mortar);
- shelter improvements;
- direct services that are not tied to or part of a broader effort to increase the availability of and access to housing for people experiencing homelessness.

The Trust expects grants to range from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per year over two years (\$200,000 to \$500,000 total), depending on the scope and scale of the project. This process is very competitive; many worthy projects will not receive grants.

LOI Content

The deadline to submit letters of interest is **Wednesday, June 15, 2022**. Letters must be submitted electronically no later than 6:00 p.m. through The New York Community Trust's Grants Portal. The letter should contain:

1. A Narrative that responds to the following questions in no more than 3 pages (single-spaced, 12-point font):

- a. What are your organization's mission, values, and history?
- b. What programs or services do you provide to New Yorkers experiencing homelessness?
- c. What is the policy or systemic issue that the project is designed to address?
- d. What is the proposed project, and what activities are involved?
- e. Who will benefit from this project?
- f. Does the project have a specific demographic and/or geographic focus, and if so what is the focus?
- g. Who are partner agencies, if any, and what role will they play in project implementation?
- h. What will be specific, measurable outcomes after two years?

- i. What are the longer-term goals for the project? How do you anticipate sustaining the project in the years to come?

2. A Project Budget that identifies the total cost of the project, including itemized personnel, non-personnel, and administrative costs (or overhead), as well as the amount requested. If the project budget is larger than the amount requested, please include other sources of possible or confirmed funding.

Submission Instructions

Step One: Prepare your letter of interest and budget (items 1 and 2 listed above) and combine them into a single PDF no larger than 25 MB in size using the file name format: "Organization Name.pdf".

Step Two: Go to The Trust's [Grants Portal](#) and click on the "Apply" link next to the **Reducing Homelessness in New York City LOI**.

Step Three: Complete the LOI profile and upload your single PDF.

Applicants will be notified by email if the project described in the LOI is of interest to The Trust, and then will be asked to submit additional information. The Trust's program staff may also follow-up by phone or request a meeting. Grant awards will be announced in October 2022.

If you have questions about this request for letters of interest, please contact Barbara Taveras at bat@nyct-cfi.org.

Please note The Trust's communications about the result of your submission will be by email, whether notification of a decline or grant. Please add noreply@nycommunitytrust.org to your address book so important communications do not get caught in spam filters.