



## Partners for Places Grants Program Round 19 Invitation to Apply

Partners for Places is pleased to announce the availability of funding for Equitable Climate Action and/or Green Stormwater Infrastructure applications.

### Applications are to:

- Create or improve collaborative partnerships between a local government sustainability and/or water department(s), frontline community group(s), and place-based funder(s).
- Advance Equitable Climate Action (ECA) and/or Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) projects that addresses frontline community priorities.
- Apply a racial equity approach to both the collaboration and the project planning / implementation.

The online application form is accessed [here](#).

### Contents:

Contents	Page
Introduction	1
Timeline	1
Leading with Racial Equity	2
Round 19 Funding Description	3
Eligibility	4
Available Funding	4
Selection Process	5
Technical Assistance	5
Submission Instructions	5

## INTRODUCTION

Partners for Places enhances local capacity to build equitable and sustainable communities in the United States and Canada through one-to-one matching awards. Partners for Places is hosted by [The Funders Network](#) (TFN). Partners for Places has funded 159 projects since 2012. Lessons from completed grants are posted on the Partners for Places [Idea Bank](#).<sup>1</sup> Funded work has resulted in: (1) sourcing local financial support for ECA and/or GSI practices, and (2) advancing opportunities for community groups, local government, and local funders to build trust and develop projects together. Partners for Places awards ECA and GSI grants through this general Invitation to Apply. It awards small, collaborative partnership development grants through its Mini Grant program.

## TIMELINE

Date	Action
February 23, 2022	Invitation to Apply is released
March 10, 2022, at 3 pm EDT	Informational webinar for interested applicants, register <a href="#">here</a>

<sup>1</sup> Successful applications can be shared with permission from the grantee. Contact [Ashley Quintana](#) if you are interested in any grantee's work.

April 13, 2022, by 11:59 pm., any time zone	Applications due
July 12, 2022	Awards announced

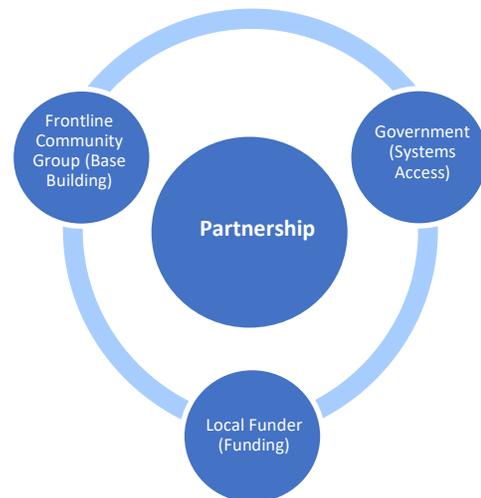
## LEADING WITH RACIAL EQUITY

Partners for Places leads with racial equity.<sup>2</sup> This funding opportunity focuses on supporting equitable climate and green stormwater action in communities through collaborative partnerships. The change hypothesis is that if meaningful partnerships are developed between local government, frontline community groups, and place-based funders, then equitable and sustainable communities can grow and thrive.

This is a learning and evolving funding opportunity. Partners for Places strives to support applicants that challenge current norms and shape the next generation of equitable climate and stormwater action. This fund encourages root cause assessments within local decision-making processes. These kinds of analysis allow communities to better understand and address how the quality of life of their frontline community groups is impacted by changing local climate and water behaviors.

The following terms appear throughout this Invitation to Apply and associated forms:

- Collaborative Partnership.** A mutually agreed upon partnership between a local government sustainability director<sup>3</sup> or water department / utility director<sup>4</sup>, a frontline community group<sup>5</sup>, and a place-based funder<sup>6</sup> to agree on priority problems and possible solutions to try together. (*Adapted from: Movement Strategy Center*).
- Equity.** The correction of broken systems, to eliminate disparate outcomes based on identity. (*Adapted from Race Forward and the Government Alliance for Race and Equity*).
- Frontline Communities.** Those experiencing the most immediate / worst impacts of climate change.
- Power Analysis.** Citing the policies and practices that perpetuate system and structural oppression (*Adapted from: The Praxis Project*).
- Equitable Climate Action.** The practice of examining systemic inequalities so that the root causes of climate change can be addressed instead of only its symptoms. Equitable climate action influences and informs the development of a just, fair, and prosperous society. The goal is to equitably meet the needs of all people groups, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (*Adapted from: Brundtland*).



<sup>2</sup> TFN recognizes the disparate impacts that structural racism has caused for black and indigenous people and communities of color, making race the leading predictor of life outcomes.

<sup>3</sup> Sustainability Director. This person leads a multi-department and community-wide urban sustainability initiative from within a city or a county government in the United States or Canada.

<sup>4</sup> Water Department/Utility Director. This person is a decision-maker from local government water departments or local water utilities. They must be based in a city or county in the United States or Canada.

<sup>5</sup> Frontline Community Groups. These bodies lead with the primary mission to represent and serve frontline communities, improving living situations by addressing the root causes of oppression and injustice, economic disadvantage, and environmental harm.

<sup>6</sup> Place-based Funder. This entity regularly makes grants within a community from annual philanthropic resources. For example: a community foundation or a private/corporate foundation that focuses on a greater metropolitan area or larger regional area.

## ROUND 19 FUNDING DESCRIPTION

This ECA and/or GSI funding opportunity is seeking applications that:

1. Explore the creation and advancement of collaborative partnerships that include a local government sustainability and/or water department, frontline community group, and place-based funder.
2. Commit to addressing systemic root causes - avoiding simply bandaging symptoms - to ensure equitable systems change.
3. Include frontline community groups as creators, leaders, and partners in the development and execution of any proposed work.

This opportunity supports collaborative teams that are undertaking the following work:

- 1. Advancing an ECA and/or GSI project that focuses on frontline community priorities.** The implementation of sustainability and/or stormwater plans in cities and counties qualifies for funding, if the primary focus emphasizes equitable responsibility sharing among team members. Applications are encouraged to identify EAC and/or GSI work that is a high priority for all team members and advances racial equity as a core part of the project outcomes.
- 2. Developing a new collaborative partnership or deepening an existing one.** Collaborative partnerships can shift community dynamics by fostering greater accountability, transparency, and trust. This ultimately elevates the quality and success of ECA and/or GSI initiatives. Grant applicants should feel free to articulate the goals and designs of their collaborative partnerships.<sup>7</sup> Each partner is expected to describe their motivation and active role in the collaboration. An example of how to share the roles and potential value propositions of the team is [here](#). Teams just starting to build relationships should state what has been done to-date, and how they plan to build the partnership. Teams with existing relationships should share the origin story and include examples of the partnership's accomplishments.
- 3. Applying a racial equity approach to both the collaboration and the project.** Partners should understand and be committed to an approach that acknowledges and seeks to address harm and injustice – especially for those disproportionately impacted by climate change. In a collaboration, this means setting aligned equity goals and being clear about roles and responsibilities. It means establishing authority and accountability as interpersonal dynamics of bias and power are discussed. In a project, this manifests as the consistent advancement of procedural, distributional, and structural equity:<sup>8</sup>
  - a. Procedural equity:** Ensuring that processes are fair and inclusive in the development and implementation of any program or policy. Those who are most impacted are prioritized for participation and through influence in decision-making.
  - b. Distributional equity:** Ensuring that resources or benefits and burdens of a policy, program, or investment are distributed in a way that prioritizes those with highest need first.
  - c. Structural (Intergenerational) equity:** A commitment and action to correct past harms and prevent future negative consequences by institutionalizing accountability and decision-making structures that will provide sustainable, positive outcomes.

Applicants are asked to describe the potential outcomes across these dimensions.

---

<sup>7</sup> Reference *From Community Engagement to Ownership: Tools for the Field with Case Studies of Four Municipal Community-Driven Environmental & Racial Equity Committees* for examples of different collaborations.

<sup>8</sup> Adapted from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network Climate Equity Primer, found [here](#).



## ELIGIBILITY

**To be eligible, all applications must comply with each of the following requirements:**

- **A one-to-one cash match has been identified.**<sup>9</sup>
  - A one-to-one funding match from at least one place-based funder is required.
    - Place-based funders must provide evidence of a one-to-one match, by including either: (1) a signed grant letter or grant agreement; or (2) a signed letter showing a strong intention to approve the matching grant within three months, should Partners for Places approve the application for funding. If proposing a two-year project, ensure the letter provides a commitment for both years of the project.
  - In-kind support will not be counted toward the one-to-one cash match. The local match may not be provided by a national funder that currently invests in Partners for Places.
- **There are no open grants with Partners for Places.**
  - Proposing teams that currently have an open Partners for Places award are not eligible to apply to this call for applications.
- **Only one application per grant cycle has been submitted by each collaborative partnership.**
  - Partners for Places supports planning and implementation processes that all partners consider important in advancing ECA and/or GSI in their communities.
  - Projects must be undertaken through a collaborative partnership between a local government sustainability or water director, frontline community group, and place-based funder. Any of these partners may apply on behalf of the project team.
- **The application is submitted by one of the partners and a grant recipient has been identified.**
  - A 501c3 non-profit must be identified as the grant recipient, willing to accept and manage grant funds on behalf of the partners post-award. This can be a fiscal sponsor, a place-based foundation, or a non-profit organization. In most cases, one of the partners is already equipped for this role.

*Review the [Partners for Places Application and Award Guidance](#) for answers to frequent questions.*

## AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Applicants can apply for one of the following:

- One-year grants for \$25,000-\$75,000
- Two-year grants for \$75,000-\$150,000.
  - **Two-year projects are strongly encouraged, to allow time for partnership building.** Hiring an expert to facilitate the integration of equity principles into the partnership's processes must be included in the budget.
  - **The budget should also be flexible enough to able to accommodate more facilitation** if that need becomes evident, to ensure that a solid base of trust is established.

Partners for Places funds can be used for:

---

<sup>9</sup> While Partners for Places requires a match from place-based funders, applicants should also be aware of emerging [federal funding opportunities](#) for additional support of local sustainability initiatives.



- Personnel costs related to the project, such as supporting new local government interns or staff, new or existing staff supporting frontline community groups, or consultant fees.<sup>10</sup>
- Other project costs, like community stipends, supplies, administrative expenses, or small capital / equipment expenses directly related to the work.

All Partners for Places grants are made in U.S. dollars (USD). The grant letter or grant agreement must be received from the local partnering funder showing proof of the match within three months of the award date. The Round 19 grant pool will likely support 4-7 projects.

## SELECTION PROCESS

All applications are reviewed by The Funders Network staff for eligibility. Those who meet all eligibility criteria are shared with the Partners for Places Selection Committee. Committee members use the Selection Criteria [here](#) to consider investments. The Committee meets to discuss the applications and vote on awards.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Partners for Places wants all applications to be as strong and successful as possible. To that end, technical assistance (TA) is available to those who are considering an application submission. To request TA, first read the [Partners for Places Application and Award Guidance](#) document. If questions remain, contact:

- [Ashley Quintana](#) with any eligibility or submission questions.
- [Susanna Sutherland](#) for help with application development, like troubleshooting or testing the applicability of a proposed planning process or project implementation design.
- [Julia Parzen](#), Partners for Places' racial equity consultant, on frontline community engagement and structuring collaborative partnership.

If additional support is needed while navigating this application, please contact [Ashley Quintana](#).

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications are submitted electronically via an online application form by **April 13, 2022**. If a submission confirmation is not received within 24 hours of the due date, please reach out to [Ashley Quintana](#) to ensure the application was processed.

When ready to apply, click [here](#) to access the online application form.

---

<sup>10</sup> Partners for Places will not support salaries for existing local government staff, major capital projects, or endowments.