



## Partners for Places Grants Program Round 20 Invitation to Apply

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Table 1. Process and Timeline.

Date	Action
December 7, 2022	Invitation to Apply is released
January 10, 2023, at 3 pm EDT	Informational webinar, register <a href="#">here</a>
February 27, 2023, by 11:59 pm., any time zone	Applications due
May 2023	Awards announced

**Opportunity Overview.** *Partners for Places* enhances local capacity to build equitable<sup>1</sup> and sustainable communities in the United States and Canada. It does this through trust-based grantmaking that supports equitable collaborative partnerships.<sup>2</sup> *Partners for Places* is hosted by [The Funders Network](#) (TFN).

Since 2012, this fund has supported 182 local projects. Lessons from completed work are posted on the *Partners for Places Idea Bank*. Successful applications can be shared with permission from the grantee. Contact [Ashley Quintana](#) if you are interested in any one community’s work.

Funds support the: (1) spreading of local Equitable Climate Action (ECA)<sup>3</sup> and / or Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)<sup>4</sup> practices; and (2) advancing opportunities for local government,<sup>5</sup> frontline communities,<sup>6</sup> and place-based funders<sup>7</sup> to build trust and develop projects together.

**Round 20 Funding Description.** This opportunity supports advancing collaborative partnerships between a local government sustainability and/or water department, frontline community partner, and place-based funder.

- One-year grants (\$45,000 - \$150,000) – *only available to partnerships that have previously received a Partners for Places mini grant:*

<sup>1</sup> **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*).

<sup>2</sup> **Collaborative partnership.** A mutually agreed upon partnership between a local government sustainability director or water department / utility director, a frontline community partner, and a place-based funder to agree on priority problems and possible solutions to try together. (*Adapted from: Movement Strategy Center*).

<sup>3</sup> **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, 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: Brundilant*).

<sup>4</sup> **Green Stormwater Infrastructure.** Community infrastructure that filters and absorbs stormwater where it falls. (*Adapted from: the U.S. EPA*)

<sup>5</sup> **Local government.** Typically, a city or county sustainability / climate officer (ECA work), or a water director / utility representative (GSI).

<sup>6</sup> **Frontline communities.** Those experiencing the most immediate and worst impacts of climate change.

<sup>7</sup> **Place-based funder.** Locally or regionally based philanthropic organizations with a history of repeated investment in the area.



- Use an existing partnership to plan or implement an Equitable Climate Action (ECA) and/or Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) project that addresses frontline community priorities.
- Two-year grants (\$75,000 - \$180,000): *available to all eligible partnerships*
  - Create or improve collaborative partnerships between a local government sustainability and/or water department, frontline community partner, and place-based funder.
    - The budget must allocate up to \$30,000 for partnership building in year 1 and include the hiring of an expert to facilitate the integration of equity principles.
  - Planning or implementation of an Equitable Climate Action (ECA) and/or Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) project that addresses frontline community priorities.

**Award Budget.** There is \$800,000 available to award in this Invitation to Apply. The Round 20 grant pool will likely support 7-10 projects. All Partners for Places grants are made in U.S. dollars.

- A local foundation match of at least 50% is required. Applications earn points commensurate with the amount of the supporting match up to 100%. The local funder matching grant letter or grant agreement showing proof of the match must be received within 3 months of the award date.

Partners for Places funds can be used for:

- Personnel costs related to the work, like supporting new local government interns or staff, new or existing staff supporting frontline communities, or consultant fees.<sup>8</sup>
- Other project costs, like community stipends, supplies, administrative expenses, or small capital / equipment expenses directly related to the work.

**Eligibility.** To be eligible, all applications must meet the following requirements:

- **At least a 50% cash match of the requested amount has been identified.**<sup>9</sup>
  - A funding match of at least 50% of the Partners for Places request from at least 1 place-based funder is required for the implementation phase.
    - Place-based funders must provide evidence of this 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.
    - In-kind support will not be counted toward the cash match. The local match may not be provided by a national funder that currently invests in Partners for Places.
- **There are no open general grants with Partner for Places**
  - Proposing teams with mini grants are eligible to apply.
  - Open general grants (e.g., Rounds 17, 18, and 19) are not eligible to apply, as they are already funded for planning and/or implementation work.
- **Only one application per grant cycle has been submitted by each collaborative partnership.**
- **The application is submitted by one of the partners, with a grant recipient identified.**

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<sup>8</sup> Partners for Places will not support salaries for existing local government staff, major capital projects, or endowments.

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



- 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.

**Submission Instructions.** Applications are submitted via email to [Ashley Quintana](#) by **February 27, 2023**. 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, download the application form and associated budget form directly from the Partners for Places website.**

**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, or if additional support is needed while navigating this application.
- [Susanna Sutherland](#) for help with application development, like troubleshooting or testing the applicability of a proposed planning process or project implementation design.