The Opportunity Accelerator (OA) is an initiative providing governments with support to build its capacity to advance economic mobility and reduce racial disparities in their communities.

To be considered for selection in this initiative, governments (i.e. cities and counties) should complete and submit this online application no later than **Friday, October 14, 2022**. Applicants should propose opportunities that will advance equitable population-level outcomes, assert their vision for impact and demonstrate their commitment to economic mobility and racial equity

The application should be completed by the head of the government department or office who will lead the project that requires OA’s support. Mayor or Chief Executive approval is required. We encourage the engagement of program-level staff to generate responses.

Joint applications are encouraged. Applications may be submitted by two or more departments/offices of the same government unit (e.g. city’s workforce department and human services), departments from different government units (e.g. workforce departments from both city and county), or in collaboration with community partners (i.e. place-based partnerships, regional backbone organizations, non-profit workforce board).

You can access a word version of the application here. Please submit final responses through this [online application form](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7010937/Opportunity-Accelerator-Application). In the top right corner there is an option to save your progress and continue later.

Applicants will be notified if they will be moved to the interview phase by October 28. Interviews will take place the first two weeks of November, and governments will be notified of their acceptance by November 18. Selected jurisdictions will receive pro-bono OA support from December 2022 through December 2023.

For any additional questions, please see our [program page,](https://results4america.org/page/opportunity-accelerator/) or contact opportunityaccelerator@results4america.org.

**Selection Criteria**

To be considered for selection, local governments will:

* Be located in any state except California, Tennessee and Texas (given that the OA has already started partnerships in those three states).
* Not have elections and scheduled changes in chief executives before the end of 2024.

Local governments that meet the above requirements and have identified new or existing opportunities promoting economic mobility and reducing racial disparities, and are committed to collaborate with community partners, are highly encouraged to apply.

We will prioritize a number of factors in selecting cities and counties for this initiative. They include:

*Opportunity for impact*

1. Project related to economic mobility, racial equity, and/or the wellbeing of residents
2. Well-defined focus population
3. Clear outcomes
4. Connection to OA offerings

*Readiness to implement*

1. Available resources, funding, and staffing
2. Able to identify key stakeholders (both from government and community)
3. Existing relationships and collaboration with community partners
4. Clear identification of project champions
5. Enabling local political climate and executive political will
6. Able to identify challenges

*Experience on core OA capabilities:*

1. Commitment and experience in racial equity work
2. Willingness and experience in partnering with impacted communities
3. Willingness and experience in collaborating with other governmental entities
4. **Applicants Information**

#### General Information

#### Level of Government\*

( ) City

( ) County

( ) Other (Write in)

Jurisdiction (i.e. City, County, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

State: (drop down menu)

The Opportunity Accelerator believes that government chief executive approval is critical for a successful engagement. Please provide the name of your Chief Executive: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Application Point of Contact

First Name\*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name\*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Job Title and/or Position\*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Department and/or Office\*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (XXX-XXX-XXXX)\*: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Collaboration within Government

If other government departments/offices support this application, participate in the proposed project and/or require OA support, please include them below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Department and/or Office | Point of Contact Full name | Point of Contact Title | Point of Contact Email Address |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

4. Collaboration with Community Partners

If available, it is encouraged to include up to three community partners (e.g. local community based organizations, regional backbone organizations) that support this application and the proposed project.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Community Organization | Point of Contact Full name | Point of Contact Title | Point of Contact Email Address |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

1. **Application Questions**

Please limit each answer to a maximum of 500 words.

**5. Proposal ideas**. Describe the proposed project, program, and/or priority for which you are seeking the OA’s technical assistance and coaching support. How does this project, program, and/or priority relate to economic mobility, racial equity, and/or the wellbeing of residents?\*

*Examples may include the following (note that these are illustrative examples only):*

* *providing pregnancy and early childhood programs to improve child well-being and maternal health for vulnerable first time families*
* *targeting of intensive after school and tutoring programs to close the achievement gap for elementary school students who have fallen behind in reading levels during the pandemic*
* *connecting high barrier individuals (e.g. opportunity youth, youth exiting foster care, formerly incarcerated individuals) to mentorship programs and apprenticeships to reduce justice involvement and improve employment outcomes*
* *providing employment services, benefit access, or income support to recently housed homeless individuals / families to enable a path to self-sufficiency and ability to pay rent*
* *offering child care or after school programs to single parent households with young children to enable them to gain or maintain employment.*

**6. Focus population.** What is the focus population for the proposed project, program, and/or priority you have proposed? Please describe their key demographics, existing outcomes, size, and geographic concentration.\*

**7. Outcomes.** What outcomes do this project, program, and/or priority seek to improve for the intended focus population? How are these outcomes being tracked and measured over time?\*

**8. Resources.** What resources, funding, and staffing are available for the project, program, and/or priority?\*

**9. Stakeholders.** Which stakeholders from the community, other departments, or other government units are necessary in order for this project, program, and/or priority to be successful?\*

**10. Relationships and collaboration with community partners**. How do you currently collaborate with community-based organizations and directly with the focus population to achieve outcomes, and/or are you interested in strengthening these relationships?\*

**11. Support from the Opportunity Accelerator.** What help/support in the proposed project do you need from the OA? How do you envision leveraging OA’s technical assistance to achieve outcomes?\*

*Through the OA initiative, participants will receive customized support and technical assistance to:*

* *Comprehensively plan towards an equitable population-level outcome such as collecting, analyzing and sharing data, setting a shared vision and defining metrics, developing and implementing effective and equitable strategies, programs, and services that center the priorities of the community, shifting and allocating funding to “what works,” and establishing systems and policies that ensure sustainability;*
* *Better understand and address structural racism and the ability to embed racial equity and wellbeing principles across government;*
* *Build trusted relationships and establish structures to better collaborate with community partners and residents to further understand problems and identify solutions;*
* *Collaborate with different levels of government and agencies within the same government to implement more effective solutions.*

**12. Your team**. Please identify the staff members who are or should be engaged in implementing the project, program, and/or priority that you propose the OA to work with.\*

**13. Chief Executive Commitment**. Can you / your project team commit to a regular briefing with the City / County Chief Executive to keep them updated on the project progress?

( ) Yes

( ) No

If yes, please describe the mechanisms in which you plan on briefing the City / County Chief Executive on the project progress (e.g. monthly or quarterly briefing meetings).

**14. Attachments** (optional). If available and relevant, please feel free to link or attach any existing resources (e.g. website or program report) that could help us understand the relevance and progress of the project, program, and/or priority.

Links:

Attachments:

**III. Participants Commitments**

15. By clicking the boxes, I, head of the government department or office that will lead the project that is requesting the OA’s support, agree to the following statements:\*

[ ] City/County is committed to promoting economic mobility, racial equity, and centering community voices.

[ ] City/County is committed to collecting, using, and sharing appropriate data that allows us to track and be transparent on programs progress, analyze impact indicators related to economic mobility, and evaluate changes on racial disparities.

[ ] Government departments or programs receiving OA’s technical assistance are well staffed and resourced.

[ ] Government teams receiving OA’s technical assistance can attend and fully engage in at least bi-weekly working meetings with the OA team. In addition, they will be able to set aside 1-2 hours over two weeks, in advance of each bi-weekly meeting, to work on this initiative. (One might be asked to spend those 1-2 hours: completing data requests; participating in discreet brainstorming sessions; participating in resident-centered activities; reviewing materials and other work products created, etc).

[ ] Government project team commits to briefing the Government Chief Executive to keep them updated on the progress.

Thank you for submitting an application for the Opportunity Accelerator initiative.

We will notify you whether your jurisdiction has been shortlisted by October 28, 2022.

Please reach out to opportunityaccelerator@results4america.org if you have any questions.