

Secure Tenure in African Cities: Micro Funds for Community Innovation

Call for Proposals 2019

The Cities Alliance has launched a Call for Proposals to award small grants for innovative ways to improve tenure security, land and property rights in African cities.

Eligibility: Social entrepreneurs, micro enterprises, innovators, community-based organisations, national and local NGOs working in African cities.

Grant size: From USD 10,000 to USD 50,000 per project.

Deadline: 14 March 2019

To apply:
<https://tinyurl.com/secure-tenure-form2019>

Contact:
Innovation@citiesalliance.org

Strengthening tenure security in cities

Achieving tenure security, land and property rights in informal urban settlements remains one of the most persistent, intractable development challenges today. The situation is particularly acute in Africa, which is experiencing very high population growth rates, notably in its small and medium-sized cities.

Many of these cities lack the capacity, resources or legal frameworks to provide adequate access to land and services for their growing populations. Land markets are frequently dysfunctional, and inappropriate standards or regulations make it nearly impossible for local authorities to find enough well-located, serviceable and affordable land for the residents of overcrowded slum settlements. In addition, political patronage and corruption can make it difficult to obtain clear information about land ownership, use and availability.

This situation has a direct impact on the urban poor, undermining their rights to land, services and housing. It forces them into informal land and service markets that are often more costly, make them more vulnerable to external shocks, and places their livelihoods at risk.

When tenure is not secure and the threat of eviction constantly looms, households, financial institutions and governments are much less likely to invest in upgrading homes or businesses, contribute to the cost and maintenance of community facilities, or supply products and services.

Access to land with secure tenure is now recognised in global development agendas, giving the issue a considerable boost. Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda calls for ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, as well as upgrading slums. The New Urban Agenda promotes security of tenure solutions that respond to age, gender, and environmental issues.

While this global focus is encouraging, change does not need to happen exclusively at the national policy level. There is no single best way of securing land tenure, and approaches differ from country to country depending on legal, economic, political, social and cultural contexts.

No matter the context, however, urban poor individuals and communities are essential actors in strengthening tenure security, and small-scale, short-term incremental solutions can be key to improving tenure security and housing conditions, and to city-building. This approach is at the heart of our Secure Tenure in African Cities initiative.

The Secure Tenure in African Cities initiative

The Secure Tenure in African Cities: Micro Funds for Community Innovation initiative will address the connection between the issue of land tenure, Africa's growing young population, and its capacity to innovate and deploy modern technologies (such as the M-PESA mobile payment system in Kenya <https://www.mpesa.in/portal/> and the Jumia e-commerce retailer in Nigeria https://www.jumia.com.ng/about_us/). It is funded by Cities Alliance member, Omidyar Network.



OMIDYAR NETWORK

To address this niche, the Cities Alliance has prepared a special Call for its Innovation Fund. The aim of this Call is to provide opportunities for innovation and impact in community-level projects by targeting national and local organisations and constituencies typically regarded as high risk and/or hard to reach. Applications are sought from social entrepreneurs, micro enterprises, innovators, community-based organisations, national and local NGOs to stimulate the use of simple, affordable, accessible innovations designed to strengthen land and property rights.

Eligibility

- **Scope.** Proposed projects must meet the objectives of the chosen theme of promoting secure land tenure and property rights in cities.
- **Target organisations.** Organisations working at the city and community level, such as social entrepreneurs, microenterprises, innovators, community-based organisations, national and local NGOs. We do not fund the local offices or affiliates of international organisations¹.
- **Fiduciary requirements.** Organisations must be legally registered for at least 6 months and must have or should be able to open a bank account in the name of the organisation.
- **Geographic scope.** Projects can take place in any African country.
- **Funding.** Funding can be requested for grants between USD \$10,000 and USD \$50,000.
- **Language.** Applications can be submitted in English, French or Portuguese.
- **Applications:** Applications must provide all the information and support documentation requested.²

Available funding

Funding is available for projects with a duration of up to 12 months. **Available grant sizes per project range from USD \$10,000 to USD \$50,000.**

Please note that Cities Alliance typically receives far more applications than funding is available. Once the Call for Proposals is closed, there will be a competitive selection process and the grants selected for funding. Not every grant application will be funded and applications for smaller grant sizes are encouraged.

The instalment schedule and further payment details will be identified for each grant individually and specified in a Grant Agreement for each project. Typically, if the total amount of granted funds is below USD \$25,000, funding will be provided in two equal installments: one up-front payment of 50 per cent at the beginning of the project, and the other 50 per cent at mid-term, upon the delivery of project outputs. If the total grant amount is between USD \$25,000 and USD \$50,000, Cities Alliance reserves the right adjust the payment schedule.

¹ Please note, in this call, we will prioritise organisations that are rooted in their community and operate with community input, involvement, and investment, embracing the community as an integral part of their success. We also prioritise small organisations that do not have access to large government, corporate or private funding sources, and for whom a small grant from Cities Alliance could make a significant impact.

² For further details about the application process and requirements, please see the “How to apply” section of this document.

Grant funding can be spent on:

| Cost Categories | Description |
|--|---|
| Staff/Consultant Costs | Costs of time spent by personnel or consultants directly related to implementation of specific project activities, i.e. providing technical inputs/expertise. |
| Training/Workshop/Seminars Costs | Costs associated with the events and meetings. This also includes training/seminars or workshops for project beneficiaries, partners and/or stakeholders necessary for achieving the project goals/objectives and sustaining the results. |
| Dissemination Costs | Costs for the preparation, production, acquisition, communication and dissemination of project outputs e.g. reports/study materials, including multimedia, web hosting, newspaper, radio and television. <i>Costs CANNOT include remuneration of government officials or media personnel.</i> |
| Purchase of equipment and/or other small fixed assets | Specific costs of acquiring small non-expendable equipment/items that are considered critical for the successful implementation of a project. <i>Costs in this category are limited to 5% of the total grant amount.</i> |
| Miscellaneous | Incremental costs of administering the grant that can be directly attributable to the project such as office supplies, bank charges, and communication/postage. <i>Costs in this category are limited to 5% of the total grant amount.</i> |
| Grant Administration Costs | Includes all indirect costs, <i>up to a maximum of 10%</i> , associated with the development, negotiation, conclusion and implementation of the Grant Support Agreement. |

How to apply

To apply for the grant, follow these guidelines:

Deadline. All proposals must be submitted before **14 March 2019, 23:59** Central European Time. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Format. All proposals must be submitted via [the online application form](#).

Language. Applications can be submitted in English, French or Portuguese.

Completeness. Applications must provide all the requested information and support documentation. Applications must be submitted with two attachments: (1) project budget sheet; and (2) legal registration certificate of the organisation applying for the grant.

Questions/Clarifications.

- Please submit your questions/clarifications about this grant opportunity or the application to Innovation@citiesalliance.org. We will accept question/clarification requests until 27 February 2019.
- We will post our answers to your questions/clarifications on our website on 1 March 2019.

Selection process

There are five fundamental steps in the approval process of a proposal to this Call for Proposals under the Cities Alliance Innovation Programme:

1. **Submission of applications following the Call for Proposals.** Proposals are submitted online using the application form.
2. **Eligibility check.** The Cities Alliance Secretariat screens the proposals to ensure that they meet the minimum criteria for eligibility.
3. **Technical evaluation by an independent panel.** The External Evaluation Panel will evaluate all eligible proposals on a competitive basis using a predefined set of selection criteria. The panel then makes recommendations to the Cities Alliance Secretariat based on a ranked list of proposal assessments.
4. **Final decision.** The Cities Alliance Secretariat selection panel reviews the ranked list from the technical evaluation. In addition to the selection criteria, the panel may also take into consideration additional factors such as theme, geography or constituencies and knowledge needs to maintain the strategic balance of the overall Cities Alliance grant portfolio. The panel then makes recommendations on which applications are eligible in principle for funding and qualified to proceed.
5. **Formal approval and grant processing:** Selected projects are formally approved by the Cities Alliance Director. From there, the Secretariat begins processing the grant according to its procedures.

From the technical evaluation and the grant processing, different recommendations may arise which are to be taken into consideration for the implementation phase of the project. The entire selection process is expected to take approximately one month from the submission deadline date.

Criteria for evaluation

Project proposals will be assessed according to a predefined set of selection criteria that are in line with the core principles of the Cities Alliance Charter and the objectives of the Innovation Programme:

- **Innovation.** The areas, and to what extent, the project promotes/uses innovative approaches, processes or products to achieve its objectives.
- **Scope.** How the proposal addresses the issues and objectives stated in the Call for Proposals.
- **Gender mainstreaming.** The proposal demonstrates that gender considerations are incorporated and/or mainstreamed in the problem, approach, outputs and results of the project.
- **Partnership, dialogue, consultations.** How the proposal facilitates participation of stakeholders and builds partnerships among urban actors. Also, it includes appropriate strategies and actions to ensure adequate participation of target groups, paying attention to gender, age and other relevant characteristics.
- **Local leadership/Community involvement.** We prioritise organisations that are rooted in their community/city and operate with community input, involvement, and investment, serving the community as an integral part of their success. Preference will be given to small

organisations that do not have access to large government, corporate or private funding sources, and for whom a small grant from Cities Alliance could make a significant impact.

- **Scalability/Transferability.** The project's potential to be expanded beyond its initial geographic area to benefit more people within a city or country, or a design flexible enough to be potentially adapted in a new and different context.
- **Implementation capacity.** The organisation has demonstrated adequate capacity and experience to successfully implement the grant activities.
- **Approach.** The proposal presents a sound strategy or approach to achieving the stated objectives.
- **Financing/Budget.** The proposed budget is realistic, comprehensive and well structured.
- **Risks and mitigations.** Please assess and identify any potential impacts and risks (i.e. social, environmental, political, implementation, etc.) connected to the activities listed in the Proposal.

Grantee responsibilities

If selected for funding, successful grantees must:




- Be responsible for the proper use of the Cities Alliance funds.
- Enter into a Grant Agreement with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), on behalf of the Cities Alliance, which will stipulate the terms and conditions for receiving and utilising the funds.
- Comply with all provisions in the Grant Agreement and applicable UNOPS policies and procedures.
- Be fully responsible for implementing the project in accordance with the Grant Agreement.
- Be responsible for using the funds only for the outputs specified in the Grant Agreement.
- Provide timely reporting to the Cities Alliance Secretariat on progress in implementing the project, and financial reporting on the uses of the funds as specified by the Grant Agreement.
- Provide communication material on project implementation (including pictures, quotes, videos, stories and other materials, where applicable).
- Communicate with the Cities Alliance Secretariat on all significant matters relating to the project, such as changes in activities, budget revision and timeline. This includes any emerging social and environmental risks and any adverse impacts resulting from implementation of project activities.
- Participate in knowledge-sharing activities so that other cities/countries might benefit from the project experiences.

About Cities Alliance

Cities Alliance is the global partnership supporting cities to deliver sustainable development. We bring together organisations with different perspectives and expertise on city issues around common goals: well run, productive cities that provide opportunities for all residents. Our partnership is unique for its diversity. At the Cities Alliance, multilateral development organisations, national governments, local government associations, international NGOs, private sector, foundations, and academia come together to leverage experience and develop solutions based on shared principles. The Cities Alliance Secretariat is based in Brussels and hosted by the United Nations Office for Projects Services (UNOPS).

The **Cities Alliance Innovation Programme** was created to incubate fresh thinking and approaches to urban challenges, particularly in rapidly urbanising cities. The Programme is a flexible instrument also designed for new and non-traditional partners, especially in those cities and communities that are typically left behind. A thematic approach facilitates comparative analyses across multiple projects, generating shared learning that can facilitate urban transformation.

Contact information

-  Apply for this grant online at <https://tinyurl.com/secure-tenure-form2019>
-  For any questions, contact Cities Alliance at Innovation@citiesalliance.org
-  For more information about the Innovation Programme, visit the Cities Alliance's website at: <https://www.citiesalliance.org/>