

## **ANNUAL CHALLENGE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

This FAQ contains additional information about the Annual Challenge, formerly known as the *AdvancingCities* Challenge. To learn more, visit the [Call for Ideas](#) and [Official Challenge Rules](#) on the [Challenge webpage](#).

### **ELIGIBILITY AND STRUCTURE**

Is the Challenge open to applicants globally?

No, the Challenge is U.S. only. The Challenge is limited to applications that focus on Eligible Markets listed in the Call for Ideas. Additional eligibility requirements for applicants are listed in the Official Challenge Rules and the eligibility requirements section in the Call for Ideas.

Can individual organizations apply to the Challenge?

Yes, organizations can apply as individual entities or as a collaborative – a departure from the collaborative requirement included in previous cycles of the Challenge. Successful applicants to the Challenge will demonstrate a commitment to close collaboration and partnership with other actors spanning different sectors to help drive long-term change for their proposed efforts.

Can an organization apply more than once with different proposals?

Yes, individual organizations can apply more than once as a single entity or the lead organization with different proposals, but they will not receive more than one grant (i.e. only one submitted proposal will be funded). Organizations can also apply as a partner in more than one collaborative application. If applying more than once, we encourage applicants to submit no more than two proposals.

How many grants will be awarded?

Up to 10 total.

What is the maximum grant amount available, and how can we determine our requested grant size?

Successful applicants will be eligible for a three-year grant of \$500,000 to \$3 million. All grants will be allocated over a three-year period. Grant amounts will vary based on organization size, proposed project, and approach to partnerships (e.g., if applicants apply as an individual entity or as a collaborative).

Does having an existing grant from JPMC disqualify an applicant?

No.

Can past winners apply to extend the same project that has been supported through a JPMC competition in the past?

No, we will not support an *extension* of projects previously supported through past rounds of the *AdvancingCities* Challenge or PRO Neighborhoods. However, we will consider *new* projects from previous competition grant recipients.

Why is there a list of eligible markets for this year's Challenge? How were they selected?

As part of the firm's Model for Impact, JPMC actively leverages the firm's various resources in service of our communities. We believe we can be most impactful in markets where we can most effectively deploy JPMC's resources – including the skills and expertise of our employees, data and insights, market expertise, and global partnerships. This year, the Challenge will accept proposals that target defined areas within JPMC's list of eligible markets that were selected in alignment with this objective.

**Can our project focus on multiple MSAs? How do you define your geographic scope?**

No. Proposals should focus on a single city or other contiguous geography within an eligible MSA. Please note that we will be unable to accept proposals for communities that fall outside of our Eligible Markets list in the Call for Ideas.

**We are a national organization that supports local efforts in communities across the United States. Can we submit more than one proposal as the lead applicant?**

For large, national organizations, especially for those under a group exemption, we recognize that there may be chapters helping local stakeholders implement unique projects. If a national organization is leading and deeply involved in local implementation efforts, and the geography, activities, and supporting staff are distinct, the national organization may submit more than one application. Please note that if a national organization submits multiple applications, only one proposal from that organization can be funded.

**If applying as an individual organization, is there guidance on the ideal number and/or type of partnerships that we need to demonstrate to be competitive for the Challenge?**

While there is no ideal number or type of partnerships, JPMC will look for proposed projects that build on or influence the work of other stakeholders across sectors, with the goals of supporting projects that will influence long-term change.

**If applying as a collaborative, do organizations need to be located within the same geographic area?**

Organizations do not have to be located in the same geographic location. However, the collaborative's activities should focus on a single city or other contiguous geography within an eligible MSA.

**Can organizations apply with a fiscal sponsor?**

Fiscal sponsors are permissible, provided they meet the eligibility requirements outlined for applicants on pages 5 of the Call for Ideas. If using a fiscal sponsor, the fiscal sponsor would apply as the "lead applicant" and complete all relevant organizational details and financial details. In sections related to programmatic information/contributions to the project, these should be completed by the "lead implementing organization," who is the "sponsored" organization of the lead applicant. If available, details on the sponsored organization/program should also provide financial and organization details in the attachment section. This could include board members, governance structure, or nonprofit application status. When applying for this year's Challenge, JPMC will need written approval via email from a senior official of the sponsoring organization, indicating that the sponsored organization has permission to use the fiscal sponsor's ID information in our application portal.

**How can rural communities with smaller population density apply?**

We recognize the unique assets of rural communities, as well as the real economic challenges, including disperse geographic areas, underdeveloped infrastructure, and struggle to retain talent. Proposals that promote urban-rural regional partnerships, in the Eligible Markets, will be eligible for awards.

**What areas does JPMC aim to make philanthropic commitments in through the Challenge?**

The Challenge focuses on four priorities, which are key drivers of wealth building: careers and skills, financial health, neighborhood development, and small business expansion. We also recognize that there are other vital systems that influence wealth building, especially for women of color, including, but not limited to, caretaking, physical and mental health, education, criminal justice, transportation, immigration, economic development, and environmental systems, among others (described as wealth accelerators and decelerators in the Wealth Creation Framework on page 4 of the Call for Ideas).

Proposals should address challenges across at least two systems that influence wealth building for women of color, with at least one system falling within JPMC's four focus areas (careers and skills,

financial health, neighborhood development, and small business expansion). Through the Challenge, JPMC is prioritizing solutions that focus on women of color in their prime working and wealth building years (ages 16 and older). We recognize that women of color hold diverse identities, and we encourage applicants to propose solutions that address the needs of diverse groups of women of color (e.g., immigrants, women impacted by the justice systems, LGBTQIA+ or gender expansive people, and/or women with disabilities). It is also important to note that while women of color are prioritized at the center of this year's Challenge and applicants proposing solutions should aim to address the conditions of this population, they do not have to do so exclusively. Applicants should be able to articulate disaggregated impact for women of color, but this is not at the exclusion of other populations, especially those experiencing similar trends and/or barriers.

Are there resources available to better understand JPMC's areas of focus?

Yes, you can learn more about [JPMC's focus areas](#) in Appendix A of the Call for Ideas.

Why is JPMC looking to fund a subset of projects that advance approaches to improve mental health and wellness as a part of interventions designed to promote economic mobility? Will these proposals be scored differently than other proposals to the Challenge?

JPMC is looking to fund a subset of projects that advance approaches to improve mental health and wellness as a part of interventions designed to promote economic mobility, given the significant mental health impacts resulting from the pandemic and ongoing disparities in accessing mental health care for women of color, as well as the link between financial stress and mental health. While we plan to award grants to a subset of projects improving mental health and wellness as a tool for economic mobility, proposals focused on this system will be scored in the same way as all proposals (please see page 6 of the Call for Ideas for an overview of the selection criteria).

Does JPMC have parameters around the scope or scale of impact for successful applications?

We are open to solutions that reach different scales of impact. If selected to advance to the second round, you will be asked to share more about how you will measure your impact, including completing target metrics within at least one of JPMC's focus areas and approaches. You can find more information about focus areas and metrics [here](#).

Are there any restrictions on use of funds?

Per the Official Challenge Rules, awards cannot be used for lobbying or political campaign intervention, including a voter registration drive. Please note that for applicants that are selected as the final winners, use of funds, including subgrants, are subject to final review and approval by the JPMC Foundation or JPMC, as applicable.

## EVALUATING PROPOSALS AND TIMELINE

What is the application and selection process for this year's Challenge?

The 2022 Challenge application and selection process will include two rounds:

- **Round 1: Open Call for Ideas:** The Call for Ideas will open on **Monday, May 23, 2022**. All eligible applicants must submit their initial idea submission via [CyberGrants](#) by **Monday, June 27, 2022, 11:59 p.m. ET**.
- **Round 2: Invite-Only Proposals:** Select applicants will be invited to complete a full application and participate in a virtual interview in **August and September**. Award decisions will be made in **October 2022**. The round 2 proposal will build on the information applicants shared in the round 1 Call for Ideas and will give applicants the opportunity to share more details about their proposed project.

#### How will the applications be evaluated?

Please see page 6 of the Call for Ideas for the selection criteria the JPMC team will use to assess all eligible applications.

#### What is the timeline\* of the proposal review and selection process?

May 23	2022 Challenge Call for Ideas opens
June 27	Call for Ideas submissions due in <a href="#">CyberGrants</a> at 11:59 p.m. ET
June – August	JPMC reviews idea submissions for eligibility and idea quality. Select applicants will be invited to submit full proposals. Applicants that do not advance will be notified periodically.
August – September	Selected applicants submit full proposals and participate in virtual interviews
October	JPMC selects winners and provides initial award notification
November – December	Grant agreements finalized
Q1 2023	Winners publicly announced

*\*These dates are subject to change*

#### How do I submit an application?

All proposals must be submitted via [CyberGrants](#). The invitation code is **Levy00**. All proposals are due by **Monday, June 27 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time**. Any proposals received via email will not be reviewed as part of the application process.

#### What happens to the application once it is submitted?

JPMC will leverage experts from across the firm to carefully review proposals. Proposals will be reviewed over two rounds. Applicants that do not advance will be notified at each stage.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

#### What are the reporting requirements for Challenge winners?

All Challenge winners are required to submit impact reports through JPMC's online grants system, CyberGrants. Organizations will receive a reminder email from our system 30 days prior to the due date of the report.

#### Do winners have to hire an external local evaluator?

Yes, each winner has to hire an external local evaluator, and applicants invited to complete a full application (as described [above](#)) must identify a local evaluation partner in their proposal. Evaluation partners can be local universities, consultant firms, or individuals able to effectively track program outcomes. Ideally, they should be familiar with the target geographic area and challenges faced by target population that the proposal seeks to address. Evaluation partners will be responsible for submitting annual evaluation briefs and a publicly available final evaluation report.

#### What are the expectations of a local evaluation partner?

The local evaluation partner will be responsible for collecting data on the outputs and outcomes of the Challenge grant; reporting the data to JPMC; meeting with other local evaluators through conference calls, webinars, and in-person meetings; producing interim reports on the status of the evaluation and findings to date after years 1 and 2; and submitting a final evaluation report by the end of year 3. During the initial months of the grant period, the local evaluation partner will also be required to submit a research plan that must be approved by JPMC.

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

My organization still has questions about the application process. What resources are available to us?

All questions can be directed to [JPMorganChase.Challenge@arabellaadvisors.com](mailto:JPMorganChase.Challenge@arabellaadvisors.com).