

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

# Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit

Frequently asked questions

**The Kresge Foundation  
Troy, Michigan  
2014**

**Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**Updated Nov. 24, 2014**

In addition to reviewing these frequently asked questions, we encourage you to read the [application guide](#), which provides a detailed explanation of the Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit grant initiative.

**General Questions**

**1. What do you mean when you say that the first year of Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit is a pilot initiative? What do you hope to achieve?**

As a new, three-year initiative to help Detroit-based nonprofits execute projects in a relatively short time frame, it will provide up to \$1.5 million in 2015. The applications we receive this year will help us to refine the program for the second and third years.

**2. How will applications be evaluated?**

All project proposals will be evaluated by the Kresge Detroit Program team using the review criteria described in the [Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit Application Guide](#); the guide can also be found through a link at [kresge.org/programs/detroit](http://kresge.org/programs/detroit). Applicants should pay particular attention to the 10 points we ask be addressed in the application narrative. Limited funds are available in the first year of the initiative, so we expect the selection process to be highly competitive. It is likely that projects will need to meet the majority of the review criteria in order to be selected.

**3. Why is Kresge focusing on Detroit City Council districts for implementation grants?**

Targeting at least one implementation project per City Council district is intended to ensure that projects are spread across the city. The focus on council districts is a geographic consideration, not a political one.

**4. How does the Detroit Future City Strategic Framework Plan relate to the Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit grant initiative?**

This grant initiative seeks to respond to community objectives expressed during the Detroit Future City planning process by providing resources for projects that support the vision and creativity of the city's residents in neighborhoods. As part of the review process, proposals will be evaluated for how they align with the strategic framework plan, particularly in:

- Transforming vacant land into an innovative open-space network
- Strategic and innovative renewal of city systems
- Fulfilling policy and regulatory reform
- Stabilizing neighborhoods

The Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit Application Guide contains more information about these points and URLs for specific sections of the strategic framework plan online. To read the plan and learn more about the implementation office, visit [detroitfuturecity.com](http://detroitfuturecity.com).

**5. Will you consider citywide projects or projects that span multiple neighborhoods?**

Yes. The same criteria apply as for more geographically focused proposals. Your narrative should explain how the criteria apply to all the areas in which you seek to work. Additionally, the narrative should provide a sense of timing and priority areas of work. Should such a proposal prove competitive and be considered for funding, we may wish to narrow the geographic focus of our support.

**6. If we are awarded a planning grant in the initial round of Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit, is there a greater likelihood of receiving an implementation grant in a later round of the initiative?**

Not necessarily. It is our hope that the planning process will better position a project for implementation support, but a planning grant in and of itself does not guarantee a favorable response in a later round of the Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit initiative. Planning-grant recipients will still need to submit an implementation-grant proposal for the next round of funding, and these will be judged against other implementation-grant proposals on a competitive basis. Please note that in reviewing planning-grant proposals, we will assess whether the planning project can be realistically completed in time to apply for the next round of the initiative, expected to launch in September 2015.

**Desired Project Characteristics**

**7. Will you consider nonphysical projects as part of the Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit initiative?**

Yes, we will consider nonphysical projects, such as social service, public safety and arts and cultural projects, as part of this initiative. Limited funds are available in this pilot round of the initiative, so we expect the selection process to be highly competitive. It is likely that projects will need to clearly meet the majority of the review criteria in order to be among those selected for funding. We recommend fully reading the application guide for Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit (link and URL above).

**8. Why is Kresge focusing on site control?**

Lack of site control or uncertainty about site control can significantly slow down or stall some projects. Site control may not be relevant for some nonphysical projects, such as social service, public safety and arts and cultural projects. This should be addressed in the application narrative for an implementation grant.

**9. Why does Kresge require that projects be accomplished in a 12- to 18-month time frame?**

The 12- to 18-month time frame for implementation is one of several initiative requirements intended to ensure projects have a tangible near-term impact on conditions in neighborhoods.

**10. Why are implementation grants limited to \$150,000 under Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit? Why does Kresge prefer projects for which 50 percent or more of the funding would be provided by the implementation grant?**

We believe that focusing on implementation grants in the \$50,000 to \$150,000 range will foster near-term benefits for neighborhoods across the city. Keep in mind that other funds can be used along with a Kresge grant, although we strongly prefer that the Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit implementation grant constitutes no less than 50 percent of the total project. We believe this will also help groups move quickly on projects.

**11. Projects supported by implementation grants are expected to begin in early 2015 and be completed by Aug. 31, 2016. Can the timeline be delayed to allow for raising additional funds for a project?**

No. If funding beyond an implementation grant is needed for a project, the narrative should make clear how it will be secured, and when, so as to complete the project in the 12- to 18-month time frame.

**12. Why must work funded by planning grants be completed in six months?**

Kresge intends to launch the next round of the Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit initiative in September 2015. By requiring that planning-grant work be completed in six months, Kresge hopes to give planning-grant recipients ample time to apply for implementation grants in the next round of the initiative.

**Eligibility**

**13. My organization doesn't meet one or more of the eligibility criteria. Am I excluded from the initiative?**

The eligibility criteria are for the lead applicant. Community-based organizations that cannot meet Kresge's criteria for this initiative can partner with an organization that meets the criteria and submit a joint proposal with that organization as the lead applicant.

**14. May a coalition of groups apply for an implementation or planning grant?**

The Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit grant initiative values and encourages partnership and collaboration. In an application by a coalition of organizations, the lead applicant must be a 501(c)(3) or operate under a college or university based in and primarily serving the city of Detroit. The application must explain how the participating organizations will work together, how their collective effort will be grounded in the needs of a particular neighborhood and how the work proposed aligns with the Detroit Future City Strategic Framework Plan.

**15. Are existing projects that wish to expand eligible for funding under this initiative?**

Yes. We will consider proposals involving the expansion of existing projects. Such proposals will need to focus on a discrete, clearly defined component of that project. As with proposals for new projects, expansion proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis according to the review criteria listed in the application guide.

**16. We are not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. May we apply?**

Status as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is one of the requirements for a lead applicant. If you

do not have 501(c)(3) status, you can apply with a lead applicant that meets that and other requirements.

**17. Our project does not take place in Detroit, but will impact the metropolitan Detroit region, including Detroit. May we apply?**

No. This grant initiative is focused on community-generated and community-led projects within the city of Detroit.

**18. Our organization does not have two full years of operational history. May we apply?**

Organizations without two years of operational history may apply as a partner to a lead applicant that meets our eligibility criteria. Please contact us with specific questions.

**19. What will Kresge accept in place of an audit?**

Lead applicants with annual budgets of more than \$250,000 are required to submit an independently prepared audit for the most recently completed fiscal year that follows Generally Accepted Accounting Principles or Government Audit Standards. In light of organizations' audit timing, we will accept an audit for the prior fiscal year if necessary. Lead applicants with annual budgets less than \$250,000 may submit a qualified financial review or IRS Form 990 for the most recently completed fiscal year in lieu of an audit.

**20. We are already a Kresge grantee. May we apply?**

Yes. The Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit initiative will consider proposals from past and current grantees of Kresge's Detroit Program and any of its national programs. Applicants requesting additional support for previously supported projects will be subject to the review criteria of the Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit initiative.

**21. Does applying for this grant preclude applying for other Kresge Detroit Program grants or for grants through other Kresge programs?**

Applications to Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit will not affect decisions related to other initiatives of the Detroit Program or initiatives of other Kresge programs.