

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

# Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit

Frequently asked questions

**The Kresge Foundation**  
**Troy, Michigan**  
**2015**

Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Nov. 2, 2015

In addition to reviewing these frequently asked questions, we encourage you to read the [Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit Application Guide](#), which provides a detailed explanation of the Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit grant initiative. You can find the application guideline, an application link, background on the project, a list of Round 1 awardees and other information at [tinyurl.com/KIPD2015](http://tinyurl.com/KIPD2015).

## **General Questions**

### **1. What is Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit?**

Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit is a three-year initiative to help Detroit-based nonprofits execute projects in a relatively short time frame. The Detroit Program intends to award at least \$1.5 million in grants as part of the second round of the initiative.

### **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](#). Applicants should pay particular attention to the 12 points we ask be addressed in the application narrative. Limited funds are available, 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. 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 neighborhood-based projects that support the vision and creativity of the city's residents. 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
- 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).

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

Yes, however, these projects must still meet neighborhood-level criteria. Projects that span multiple neighborhoods must articulate their impact in each neighborhood and how the project advances community priorities for each neighborhood. Additionally, the narrative should provide a sense of timing and priority areas of work. Should such a proposal prove competitive and considered for funding, the Detroit Program may wish to discuss narrowing the geographic focus of our support.

**5. Does receiving a planning grant in this round of Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit increase the likelihood of receiving an implementation grant in Round 3?**

In general, we 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 Round 3 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 on a competitive basis. Please note that in reviewing planning-grant proposals, we will assess whether they can be realistically completed in time to apply for the next round of the initiative, expected to launch in October 2016.

**6. Why is Kresge emphasizing planning grants in this round of the initiative?**

We are emphasizing planning grants to ensure a strong pool of implementation-grant applications for the third year of the initiative. We hope to award at least one planning grant in each of the seven Detroit City Council districts. It is anticipated that 15-20 planning grants will be awarded.

**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 human services, public safety, and arts and cultural projects, as part of this initiative. As with physical projects, proposals for nonphysical projects will need to address the application review criteria, including the project's transformative impact in a Detroit neighborhood. Competitive projects will have discrete timelines and will not focus on operating support for ongoing programs.

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

Lack of site control or uncertainty about site control can significantly slow down or stall some physical projects. It may not be relevant for some nonphysical projects, such as human services, 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 the several requirements intended to ensure 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 will be provided by the implementation grant?**

We believe that focusing on implementation grants in the \$50,000 to \$150,000 range will catalyze near-term benefits across Detroit neighborhoods. 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 at least 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 2016 and be completed by Aug. 31, 2017. Can the timeline be extended 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 eight months?**

We intend to launch the next round of the Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit initiative in October 2016. By requiring that planning-grant work be completed in eight months, we hope 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. We encourage collaboration among organizations that work in a neighborhood for these projects. 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) based in and primarily serving the city of Detroit 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. Additionally, the lead applicant is encouraged to submit letters of support from other coalition members.

**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. Are Detroit-based 501(c)(3) organizations with two years of operational history that have only volunteer staff eligible to apply?**

Yes, however, preference will be shown for applicants with the equivalent of at least one full-time employee on staff (see the appendix of the [Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit Application Guide](#), for instructions for calculating full-time equivalents). This preference reflects a desire to ensure sufficient organization capacity to coordinate and execute projects of the scope and scale supported by this initiative.

**20. 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.

**21. 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 Kresge's national programs. Applicants requesting additional support for previously supported projects will be subjected to the review criteria of the Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit initiative.

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

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

**23. May a recipient of a Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit Round 1 implementation grant apply for Round 2?**

Recipients of Round 1 implementation grants may submit an application for an implementation or planning grant in Round 2. However, preference will be given to lead applicants who have not previously received an implementation grant through this program. This preference reflects the desire of the Kresge Detroit Program to support a diverse set of projects and partner organizations across Detroit through the Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit grant initiative.