



October 14, 2026

Cities Deliver: AI Solutions for Public Services (2026 Call for Proposals)

Agency	The Rockefeller Foundation and OpenAI Foundation; managed by RF Catalytic Capital (RFCC), an affiliate of The Rockefeller Foundation		
Program Description	A \$50 million initiative launched October 14, 2026 to help cities use AI to anticipate and meet residents' needs, supporting nonprofit and civil society organizations working with city governments, with a goal of reaching up to 100 million city residents worldwide. Seed track (\$500,000 to under \$1 million): early concepts ready for a first city pilot; Scale track (\$1 million to \$2 million): solutions already piloted with early results.		
Application Due	Round 1 (eligibility screen and short video) due November 29, 2026, 11:59 pm ET; Round 2 proposals (by invitation) due March 1, 2027, 11:59 pm ET; final selection April 2027		
Total Funding	\$50 million	Max Award: \$2 million	Min Award: \$500,000
	24 month grants; 50% paid at start, 50% after mid term milestone		
Award Amount	NA		
Local Match:	NA		
Eligible Applicants	Every project needs: • An eligible lead organization A nonprofit (including university labs and fiscally sponsored organizations) or a public benefit corporation. For-profits may qualify in limited cases with a charitable project, and no more than an incidental benefit to the for-profit company's business. Governments may not apply directly. • A city partner All applicant organizations must have a city partner with a commitment to collaborate. • A charitable purpose A benefit to underserved, poor, or distressed communities, or to social welfare. Existing grantees of The Rockefeller Foundation and RF Catalytic Capital (RFCC) are also eligible to apply.		
Eligible Activities/ Projects	Projects with a meaningful frontier AI component (any AI models; no preference for OpenAI technology) in: • Public Health (healthcare, disease surveillance, disability services, food access); • Economic Mobility (benefits enrollment, career navigation, skills based hiring, training); • Environmental Resilience (forecasting and recovery from environmental shocks, emergency services, energy infrastructure, land management); • Civic Engagement (two way service channels, participatory decision making, digital access, court services, permitting). Voting and election projects are excluded.		
Review Criteria	Looking for projects and partnerships that: • Respond to demand. The project addresses credible demand from city government partners and the communities they serve. • Start with the problem. The project tackles a significant problem that your city government has prioritized, which affects vulnerable communities or promotes social welfare. • Then plan a solution. The project takes advantage of the latest capabilities of frontier AI models, and those capabilities are core to the proposed solution. • Focus on readiness. Your team and city partner can integrate technology into public sector settings. • Build for sustainability. The project is well-positioned to be sustained in terms of follow-on funding, city capacity, and integration with government systems. • Act responsibly. Applicants demonstrate the ability to build and manage AI solutions safely and responsibly. Plan to learn. Applicants propose a clear learning agenda for assessing progress including evaluation, user feedback, and path to social impact.		
Link:	https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/cities-deliver-ai-solutions-for-public-services/ https://citiesdeliver.rockefellerfoundation.org/		
Application Submission	Create an account and apply through the online portal; Round 1 includes an eligibility screen, proposal questions, and a short video; advancing applicants are invited to interviews and Round 2; the submitter must be authorized to act for the organization		
BAC Partnership Opportunity	• The Build America Center (BAC) is a technical assistance program funded by the USDOT, offering grant development services to localities at NO CHARGE. For more information, please visit our websites: https://bac.umd.edu/ and https://billaunchpad.com/		

If your agency is interested in exploring this opportunity, contact us at bac@umd.edu for details on collaboration