

Leaders for Equitable Local Economies (LELE)

Application instructions

Key dates

- LELE info sessions: 6/30 at 4p, 7/1 at 7p, 7/2 at 12p. More sessions may follow; register and check for more dates at: http://frb.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cvHP3n6JZkT0qsC.
- Deadline for initial conversation with the Boston Fed (required to submit written application) – August 13
- Deadline for submitting written application – August 27
- LELE cohort selected by September 24

Definitions

Applicant team: the 2-3 people from a given community who will submit a joint application to participate in LELE. Applicant team members receive coaching and stipends.

Champion: a local leader who commits to support the applicant team in their 18-months of LELE participation. Champions will commit to use their positions, networks, resources, and influence to support the local team and effort. They are not paid but will receive access to some supports, including up to 8 hours of capacity-building or technical assistance through LELE.

Racial equity: the condition where race can no longer predict life outcomes.

Inclusive economy: an economy in which everyone has the opportunity to participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.

Systems change: a shift in attitudes, behaviors, policies, practices, power structures, or resource flows that makes lasting change more likely

Community of practice: the cohort of LELE participants across 4-5 cities who will gather to share lessons, ideas, and opportunities to build collective capacity and power as leaders.

LELE application checklist

- Attend or watch recording of an info session
- Visit the LELE website and read the information posted
- Meet with the co-applicants and champions in your community that you might want to apply with; ensure they have a good understanding of what LELE is and why/how it could advance your work
- Schedule a call before August 13 between your team and the Boston Fed to share your ideas and determine whether LELE aligns with your goals, needs, and bandwidth
- Draft your application, working closely with your co-applicant(s) and champions to ensure everyone understands the approach. Line up some friends or colleagues to help you sharpen your narrative.
- Submit your application via email no later than August 27.

How will LELE participants be selected?

A brief, written application will be one means of understanding the opportunity presented by each applicant team. Applications will focus on tangible aspects of your proposal, like the local project you'll undertake, the way resources might be allocated, and what you can give to and take from the Community of Practice. A subset of the LELE advisory group will review and assess applications and invite select applicant teams to participate in an interview based on how each team addresses the following questions:

- Is there a committed team of practitioners and local champions that are representative of their City's diversity? Do team members have with clear and relevant roles for their participation?
- Does the team have experience working collaboratively?
- Are there plans to include and engage diverse community voices and perspectives?
- Is the proposed effort aligned with existing initiatives or investments?
- Does the strategy center racial equity, and if the team is successful, can we expect to see improved economic outcomes for community members who are traditionally excluded from economic progress?
- Does the strategy incorporate a systems change approach that recognizes that lasting change requires shifting attitudes, behaviors, policies, and resource flows?
- Is the project likely to produce tangible wins during the 18-month program?

Step 1: Before you apply, let's talk! We want to hear about:

Before completing the written application, each prospective applicant team is asked to schedule a conversation with the Boston Fed staff to discuss your ideas and how LELE aligns with your efforts. We'll use this time to learn more about things like:

- Your applicant team: how you came together, your experience partnering, the roles you'll play, and how you hope to grow and learn through this opportunity.
- What barriers and opportunities are present in your city when it comes to making your local economy more inclusive.
- What you hope participation in LELE will make possible for your community and for yourselves as leaders.
- Your bandwidth. We expect LELE participants will spend 10-15 hours per month on this effort, between advancing their local project and engaging with the coach and cohort of peers.
- What opportunities you see in working with a cohort of practitioners across other Gateway Cities.

LELE Application

Note: this is a draft provided for informational purposes. Applicants will receive an editable version of the application after your call with Boston Fed staff. We will also ask you to complete a brief form that includes contact information about your applicant team and champions, along with the role each individual will play on the team.

Instructions: Please answer every numbered question and limit your submission to 3 typewritten pages or a video of less than 5 minutes.

1. How do you describe your community (that is, your city as a whole) when it comes to working on issues related to race, equity, inclusion, and the local economy?
2. What is the focus of the work you hope to undertake with LELE and why, particularly given the context you described in question 1?
3. What are some ideas you'd like to test or projects you'd like to implement through LELE?
4. Imagine it's two years from now and you're telling the success story of what you accomplished through LELE. How is your city different? Please share a few examples of what success might look like.
5. What challenges might you expect to navigate given your city context, your team, and your goals?
6. Describe your applicant team (the two or three partners applying together): what will your roles be? What skill sets and experiences does each of you bring to this work? How have you collaborated before, or if this is your first time as a team, how will you build a strong working relationship?
7. Tell us about the champions who are committing to support you in this work. What do each of them commit to do in support of your work, and why will these commitments make a difference in your ability to make change?
8. You will be part of Community of Practice and receive coaching support if selected. Tell us what you hope to learn from your peers and a coach. Are there any specific skill sets you hope to develop?
9. What else should our selection team know about your community, team, or approach?