



CREATE THE NEXT CITIES OF SERVICE BLUEPRINT

Contest Deadline: August 15, 2014

Cities of Service blueprints are an easy way for cities to develop volunteer initiatives based on successful designs used in other communities. Providing step-by-step instructions, blueprints include information on the role of the mayor, resources, lessons learned from other cities, as well as metrics to measure outcomes. More than 65 initiatives in cities large and small have been implemented based on the 11 blueprints already in the Cities of Service library (<http://www.citiesofservice.org/resources>).

Cities of Service is offering prizes for the best new blueprints based on existing initiatives that have demonstrated impact. Blueprints should: address a common problem facing cities and describe an initiative that has already been tested, use volunteers as a central strategy, produce measurable impact on the issue being addressed, and involve a significant and meaningful role for mayors and their offices.

Anyone can enter the contest – not just mayors. To enter the contest, applicants must draft a blueprint for an initiative. We encourage you to utilize the blueprints that are already in the Cities of Service library as a reference for your submission (<http://www.citiesofservice.org/resources>).

In addition to the blueprint template, all submissions must include separate documentation that the initiative has been tested and of the evidence base behind the initiative. The full contest application is available online at: <https://www.grantinterface.com/citiesofservice/Common/LogOn.aspx> (you must log-in or create a new account).

An expert panel will select the top blueprints based on the following criteria: potential for impact, appeal to mayors, practicality (ease of implementation), cost to implement (low cost is better; cost per unit of impact), and importance of issue addressed.

Winning blueprints may be published and promoted by Cities of Service. By participating in the contest, applicants warrant that any entry materials are not the intellectual property of another entity and authorize Cities of Service to publish the blueprint if it is selected as a prize winner. Winners will be announced in October 2014.

An informational conference call will be held on Thursday, June 26 from 3pm to 4pm EST. To join the call, dial 877.810.9415 and enter participant code 2050162# at the prompt.



Prizes:

- 1st Prize: \$10,000, and publication and promotion of the winning blueprint (subject to editing).
 - In addition, Cities of Service will provide a \$25,000 grant to a city to implement or expand an existing program on which the winning blueprint is based.
 - To be considered for the \$25,000 implementation grant, a city lead will need to submit a letter from the Mayor that affirms the city's willingness and capacity to implement the initiative. If the applicant is anyone other than a city lead, it will need to submit a letter from the mayor of the city that will implement the blueprint, affirming his/her commitment to being a partner in this initiative and the city's capacity to implement the initiative.
- Up to 3 runners-up: \$5,000 each (Cities of Service reserves the right to edit and publish the blueprints).

At Cities of Service, we know that the best ideas come from the field – from those who know how cities work, have experience with volunteer engagement, believe in the power of volunteers to make a difference in their community, and are not afraid to innovate. Through the design and dissemination of new blueprints, we hope to tap into your best thinking, and share best practices in impact volunteering. Thank you for taking the time to participate and compete in this contest.

Who is eligible to compete?

- Office of the Mayor
- City Agencies
- Community-based Nonprofit Organizations
- National Nonprofit Organizations
- Faith-based Organizations
- Colleges and Universities

What makes a good blueprint?

- Must address a common problem facing mayors
- Must use volunteers as a central strategy
- Must describe an initiative that has been previously implemented and tested
- Must produce measurable impact on the issue being addressed
- Must involve a significant role for mayors and their offices



How to participate:

- Submit a draft blueprint (following the blueprint template). The application is available online at: <https://www.grantinterface.com/citiesofservice/Common/LogOn.aspx> (you must log-in or create a new account).
- Submit proof that the blueprint is based on a previously implemented initiative
- Submit evidence of impact
- To be considered for the \$25,000 implementation grant, an applicant will need to submit a letter from the mayor that affirms the city's willingness and capacity to implement the initiative. If the applicant is anyone other than a member of the mayor's office, he/she will need to submit a letter from the mayor of the city that will implement the blueprint, affirming the mayor's commitment to being a partner in this initiative and the city's capacity to implement the initiative.

Selection criteria:

- Potential for measurable impact
- Appeal to mayors
- Practicality (ease of implementation)
- Cost to implement (low cost is better; cost per unit of impact)
- Importance of issue addressed

Information about Submitting Contest Entries:

Cities of Service's funding opportunity applications are available at <https://www.grantinterface.com/citiesofservice/Common/LogOn.aspx>.

If you have not previously used this system, you must create a new account. Below are some resources to guide you through this process:

Application document tutorial: <https://app.box.com/s/luks6ckh1pydgbrnjze9>

Applicant Registration Video Tutorial: <http://youtu.be/etScRJXC2bE>

Applicant Workflow Video Tutorial: <http://youtu.be/oPa0E3V7uU>