



COMMUNITY PLANNING AND RESEARCH ACCELERATOR

Call for Proposals

Funding & Technical Assistance
for Community-Led Planning and
Research Projects in New York City

PRATT
CENTER
FOR
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

Deadline: August 31, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Apply: prattcenter.net/cpra-apply
Questions: cpra-prattcenter@pratt.edu



Call for Proposals

CPRA At a Glance

Funding & Technical Assistance for Community-Led Planning and Research Projects in New York City



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Who Can Apply?

Organizations must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be based in New York City
- Have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status or fiscal sponsorship
- Have at least one paid staff member
- Designate a staff member to serve as project lead
- Propose a project that aligns with the program goals

The Community Planning & Research Accelerator (CPRA) is a funding and technical assistance program that invests in New York City organizations working to advance social justice, address neighborhood challenges, and create lasting community change.

CPRA supports projects that build community power and would benefit from community-based planning or community-engaged research support from the Pratt Center for Community Development. Organizations will receive one year of funding and hands-on technical assistance support to strengthen projects, build organizational capacity, and advance community-driven solutions.

Up to four organizations will receive:

- **\$15,000 Project Grant for One Year**
- **Approx. 200 Hours of Planning or Research Support from Pratt Center Staff**

Eligibility and Priority

Projects should advance community priorities and benefit from community-based planning, community-engaged research, or related technical assistance. Priority will be given to smaller organizations, organizations with limited access to funding, organizations new to Pratt Center, and organizations based in the Bronx and Staten Island.

Key Dates

Application Opens:
July 1, 2026

Webinar #1 (Optional):
[July 16, 1:00 - 2:00 PM](#)

Webinar #2 (Optional):
[July 22, 10:00 - 11:00 AM](#)

Office Hours (Optional):
July to August 2026*

Application Deadline:
August 31, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Finalist Interviews:
September 2026

CPRA Participants Selected and Notified:
October 2026

Program Period:
October 2026 - Sept 2027

PRATT CENTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND RESEARCH ACCELERATOR

* Stay up to date on upcoming dates at prattcenter.net/cpra

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Community Planning & Research Accelerator Call for Proposals

About the Program

Pratt Center's Community Planning and Research Accelerator (CPRA) is a funding and technical assistance program that supports New York City organizations working to advance social justice, address neighborhood challenges, and create lasting community change. Through funding and hands-on support, Pratt Center will help organizations strengthen projects that advance community priorities, build local power, and lay the groundwork for future action.

- In 2026-2027, up to four organizations will receive: \$15,000 in project funding
- Approximately 200 hours of technical assistance from Pratt Center staff (valued at \$15,000)

Projects will run from October 2026 through September 2027.

The program builds on Pratt Center's 60+ years as a community planning and research organization, supporting communities with the tools, resources, and technical capacity to shape the decisions affecting their neighborhoods.

Who Should Apply?

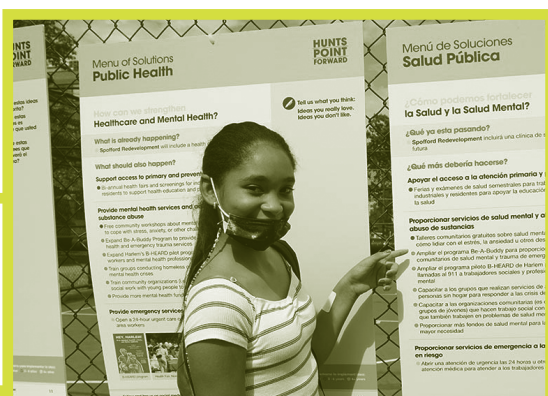
We encourage applications from NYC-based organizations rooted in and accountable to the communities they serve, particularly low-income communities of color or communities that have historically faced barriers to resources and opportunity.

Eligible organizations:

- Are located in one of NYC's five boroughs
- Are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or have a fiscal sponsor
- Represent low-income, BIPOC communities
- Have at least one paid staff member
- Can designate a paid staff member to serve as project lead (see the technical assistance section for information on time commitment)
- Work to build community power and towards systemic and structural change

Pratt Center will give priority to organizations that:

- Have annual budgets under \$2 million
- Have limited access to grant funding (we will consider a program or initiative of a larger organization if the program has not been able to access funding)
- Are located in areas underrepresented in Pratt Center's current partnerships (organizations working in the Bronx and Staten Island are encouraged to apply)
- Have not worked with or have only had limited engagement with Pratt Center
- Focus on Pratt Center's core issue areas: housing, climate, economic justice, and planning and land use, or related community issues





Technical Assistance in the CPRA

Applicants can select from one of the following areas of TA:

1. Community-Based Planning

Pratt Center helps organizations engage community members, identify priorities, and develop action plans.

Support may include:

- Community workshops and visioning sessions
- Land use and zoning analysis
- Designing community engagement tools and supporting facilitation
- Data analysis and mapping

2. Community-Engaged Research

Pratt Center helps organizations design and carry out research that supports advocacy, organizing, planning, and decision-making.

Support may include:

- Participatory action research design, including developing research questions and work plans
- Developing qualitative and quantitative research instruments (surveys, interviews, focus groups, etc.)
- Data analysis, visualization, and mapping
- Demographic and economic analysis
- Developing research findings and recommendations

Project Eligibility

Projects should address a community issue, build community power, and benefit from planning or research support. Projects do not need to be new. They can be part of a larger effort, as long as the proposed work can be completed during the program year.

Projects will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Alignment with the CPRA's goals to advance social justice and build community power
- Demonstrate how Pratt Center's planning or research support will advance the project
- Can successfully be completed within the CPRA timeline (1 year) and budget
- Organizational readiness to fully participate in the CPRA

Examples of Technical Assistance

Past examples of Pratt Center's technical assistance include:

- Community-based planning for Baruch Bath House with GOLES — Designed and implemented a community engagement process for a site redevelopment
- Community-engaged research with End Toxic Home Flipping Coalition — Conducted data analysis, data visualization, and interviews with housing advocates on the impacts of home flipping
- Community-engaged research with Riders Alliance — Executed surveys and focus groups on the impacts of Flatbush Avenue bus service
- Community-engaged research with Manhattan Community Board 3 — Analyzed city data on affordable housing preservation, development, and affordability along with analysis of census demographic and income data to understand housing needs for a District Needs Statement



Program Expectations

We want to reduce the burden typically associated with grant programs and will work with organizations to ensure they have the resources and time to execute their work. For the CPRA, selected organizations are required to:

- Designate one staff member to lead the project
- Participate in a project kickoff meeting
- Meet with Pratt Center staff throughout the year as mutually agreed upon
- Provide information needed to complete technical assistance (TA) projects
- Participate in TA activities related to planning or research
 - For planning projects: organizations will help recruit participants and support community engagement activities.
 - For research projects: organizations will help collect information from community members while Pratt Center provides research design, analysis, and technical support.
- Complete minimal reporting requests



How to Apply

Fill out the online application at prattcenter.net/cpra-apply. Preview the application in the following section.

Questions?

Attend a webinar, visit office hours, or contact cpra-prattcenter@pratt.edu.

About Pratt Center

Pratt Center for Community Development works to build community power and ensure the equitable distribution of resources for low-income BIPOC people in New York City. We partner with frontline community organizations to provide research, participatory planning, policy advocacy, and implementation support.

prattcenter.net

Timeline

Application Opens:

July 1, 2026

Webinar #1 (Optional):

July 16, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

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Application Questions

Fill out the online application at prattcenter.net/cpra-apply

Section 1. Organizational Information

1. Organization name
2. Organization website
3. Organization's primary address
4. Is your organization a 501c3 nonprofit or fiscally sponsored by one (provide name)?
5. Organization's mission (700 characters max)
6. Contact person for application: Name / Email / Phone
7. In which of NYC's 5 boroughs does your organization work? Check all that apply:
 - Brooklyn
 - Bronx
 - Manhattan
 - Queens
 - Staten Island
8. What is the annual budget of your organization for the most recently completed year?
 - Under \$250,000
 - \$250,001 – \$499,999
 - \$500,000 - \$999,999
 - \$1 million - \$2 million
 - Over \$2 million
9. Does your organization have paid staff members? Yes No
10. Briefly detail your organization's staffing structure (e.g., number of full-time vs. part-time roles) and if there are any types of external collaborators, such as volunteers, who support your work. (1500 characters max)
11. Which of the following issue areas does your organization focus on? (Select all that apply)
 - Housing
 - Climate
 - Economic Development
 - Land Use and Planning
 - Other (please specify):

12. Has your organization worked with Pratt Center before? Yes No

12b. If yes, please describe the project, including when the project was completed or if it is ongoing. (1500 characters max)

13. Who does your organization serve, and how does your organization engage with those communities? (1500 characters max) *Please describe the communities your organization works with, including any geographic areas, populations, or constituencies you serve. Share how your organization builds relationships with community members and incorporates their priorities, experiences, and leadership into your work.*

14. How does your organization work to create systemic change in the communities you serve? (1500 characters max) *Please describe how your organization addresses the root causes of community challenges through organizing, advocacy, planning, research, coalition-building, service delivery, or other strategies. We are interested in understanding how your work contributes to long-term community, policy, systems, or structural change.*

Section 2. Project Information

15. Tell us about your project. (3500 characters max)

Please describe:

- *The community issue, challenge, or opportunity your project addresses*
- *What you hope to accomplish during the program year*
- *How your project will benefit the community you serve*

16. Please provide a budget for the proposed project.

ITEM	COST	NOTES
<i>Personnel</i>		
OTPS		
TOTAL:		

17. Will the project have sufficient funding to be completed if selected for CPRA?

- Yes, the combination of existing funds and CPRA funding will be sufficient.
- No, additional funding will still be needed to complete the project.

18. What are the major activities or milestones do you expect to complete during the program year? (1500 characters max) *Please provide a general timeline for your project between October 2026 and September 2027. You may provide a list and dates.*
19. How will this project contribute to lasting change in your community? (1500 characters max) *Please describe how the project addresses a social justice issue and how it may influence policies, systems, practices, community power, or long-term conditions in your community.*
20. Do you have a staff member who can serve as project lead throughout the program year? Yes No

Section 3. Technical Assistance

21. Which type of technical assistance would be most helpful for your project? (Select one)
- Community-Based Planning:** Support may include community engagement, facilitation, visioning workshops, land use analysis, data collection, and mapping.
 - Community-Engaged Research:** Support may include survey and interview design, focus groups, demographic and economic analysis, data visualization, mapping, and research findings.
22. How would you use Pratt Center's technical assistance to advance your project? (1500 characters max)
- Please describe:*
- *The support you hope to receive from Pratt Center;*
 - *What you hope to produce or accomplish with that support; and*
 - *How it will help move your project forward.*