RESILIENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND (RCIFund)

The RCIFund is an investment tool, bringing together public and private partners, to secure a resilient future in the cities we live in. With more than half of the world’s population living in urban areas and expected to reach 70 percent by 2050, urgent action is required to ensure our cities can withstand the effects of multiple shocks and stresses.

The RCIFund will provide cities with the connections and resources to secure a resilient future. The fund is the first of its kind to focus on building holistic resilience that generates measurable reductions in vulnerability around the world.

When a city is resilient, it has the capacity to ensure its infrastructure, businesses, institutions, communities and individuals survive and thrive, no matter what chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

Business-as-usual models of siloed and reactive planning do not provide cities with the means to thrive in the face of the acute shocks and chronic stresses of the 21st century. Acute shocks are sudden, intense events that threaten a community, such as natural disasters, cyberattacks or civil unrest. The impact of these shocks are often exacerbated by chronic stresses that can weaken cities over time, such as recurrent flooding and high unemployment.

MODEL & MANAGEMENT

Resilient Cities Network and partners will raise funds for the RCIFund, targeting a minimum $10 million USD by end of year 2024. Resources will be targeted toward resilience projects that can further leverage funding from local stakeholders and align with city priorities. Solutions developed through a resilience lens allow cities to enjoy multiple benefits, or resilience dividends – maximizing the value of every dollar spent, and ultimately, improving overall quality of life.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the RCIFund one large pool of funds?
While the overarching structure is the designated and branded RCIFund platform, it is designed with flexibility for sub-funds. This gives it the potential for highly focused targeting and impact to reinforce funding resilience projects, while allowing for co-funding from a variety of aligned sources. These sub-funds can be programmatically, thematically and geographically defined. There may be partner and funder based sub-funds that are highly targeted and co-branded in same manner.

What are the basic criteria to be eligible for the RCIFund?
Cities must be a member of the Resilient Cities Network, have a Chief Resilience Officer, and have a complete city resilience strategy. In some cases there may be matching or co-funding requirements on a given grant round.

How can cities access funds in the Resilient Community Impact Fund?
Based on the potential themes, programs, funders and geographies of a certain sub-pool, cities will be selected to apply or respond to a network request consisting of the specific parameters and grant guidelines in a given round of grantmaking. For at least the first phase, there will be no unsolicited requests for funding.

What kind of projects are anticipated for funding from the RCIFund?
The projects receiving grants will vary based on the sub-pool, themes, regions, etc., and we anticipate grants that can fund an entire small project, pilot phase, research, project preparation or planning, as well as larger grants for catalyzing larger, co-funded projects that have been prioritized by the city.

At a foundational level the Fund is designed to provide seed money for cities and their partners needed to initiate key projects from their resilience strategies, resulting in action on the ground, thus creating buy-in from local stakeholders, motivating local investment, inspiring community participation, and actualizing co-benefits from these resilience investments.

What will the size of the projects or grants be for the RCIFund?
For the initial phase of the Fund, we anticipate the grants to range from $50,000 USD to $250,000 USD. The projects may be funded in whole or in part by the grants from the Fund, with some grant criteria requiring local partner and/or city match. Larger donations to the RCIFund may increase the range of grants.

How are the projects selected to receive funds from the RCIFund?
The goal of the RCIFund is to make catalytic grants, $50,000-$250,000, potentially larger, to prioritized, innovative, small and medium scale resilience projects around the globe. These projects will be selected through a predefined process and criteria, based on the programmatic, thematic and geographic specifics in the various sub-funds and appropriately vetted for the highest possible Resilience Value (R Value).