

The background of the entire image is a dark red color with a white line-art map of a city grid. The grid consists of various rectangular blocks and streets, with some areas being more densely packed than others. The lines are thin and white, creating a high-contrast pattern against the red background.

**BLOOMBERG
HARVARD**

City
Leadership
Initiative

City Information Session

2025 City Hall Fellowship

September 2025

Welcome!

We will share
today's slides!

- Introductions
- Fellowship Overview
- Application Process for Host Cities
- Next Steps and Q&A

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- Equips mayors and senior city officials with training, tools, and support
 - Advances the field of city leadership through research, new curriculum, and instructional materials
 - Inspires a new generation of city leaders

The City Hall Fellowship is an opportunity for your city to advance the work on a mayoral priority

The Bloomberg Harvard City Hall Fellowship program is a **two-year program** for selected Bloomberg Harvard alumni cities.

It is an opportunity for cities to **host a Harvard graduate as a City Hall Fellow** who works to address a key priority, developing new approaches and delivering innovative policies, programs, and services to the community.

The salary and benefits of a Fellow **are paid by Bloomberg Harvard with no direct cost to the host city.**

About City Hall Fellows

- City Hall Fellows are Harvard graduates of any graduate-level or professional degree program.
- They are selected through a competitive process and carefully matched with host cities based on mutual interest.
- They work on location in city halls for 24 months.
- Their work is anchored in a key priority of the mayor; the “anchor challenge”.
- We hope to place approximately 20 fellows for cohort 5, all of whom will arrive in their host cities by summer 2026.



**At the heart of
the fellowship is
our commitment
to resident
impact**

Fellowship goals

Drive Impact for Residents.

Fellows create lasting change in cities by applying skills and capabilities to improve how cities serve residents.

Inspire and Equip Future Leaders.

Fellows are equipped and inspired to pursue careers in city government.

Enhance Organizational Capabilities.

Fellows support capability building efforts by successfully demonstrating skills.

Fellows will be expected to...

Leverage the two-year placement to meaningfully advance the host city's response to a nominated challenge.

- Deliver meaningful contributions and products
- Commit to strengthening core capabilities with city colleagues
- Engage in cohort-based learning and professional development

Cities will be expected to...

Lead and mentor a Harvard graduate for two years, at no cost to the city, to support capacity and skills building around a high-priority challenge.

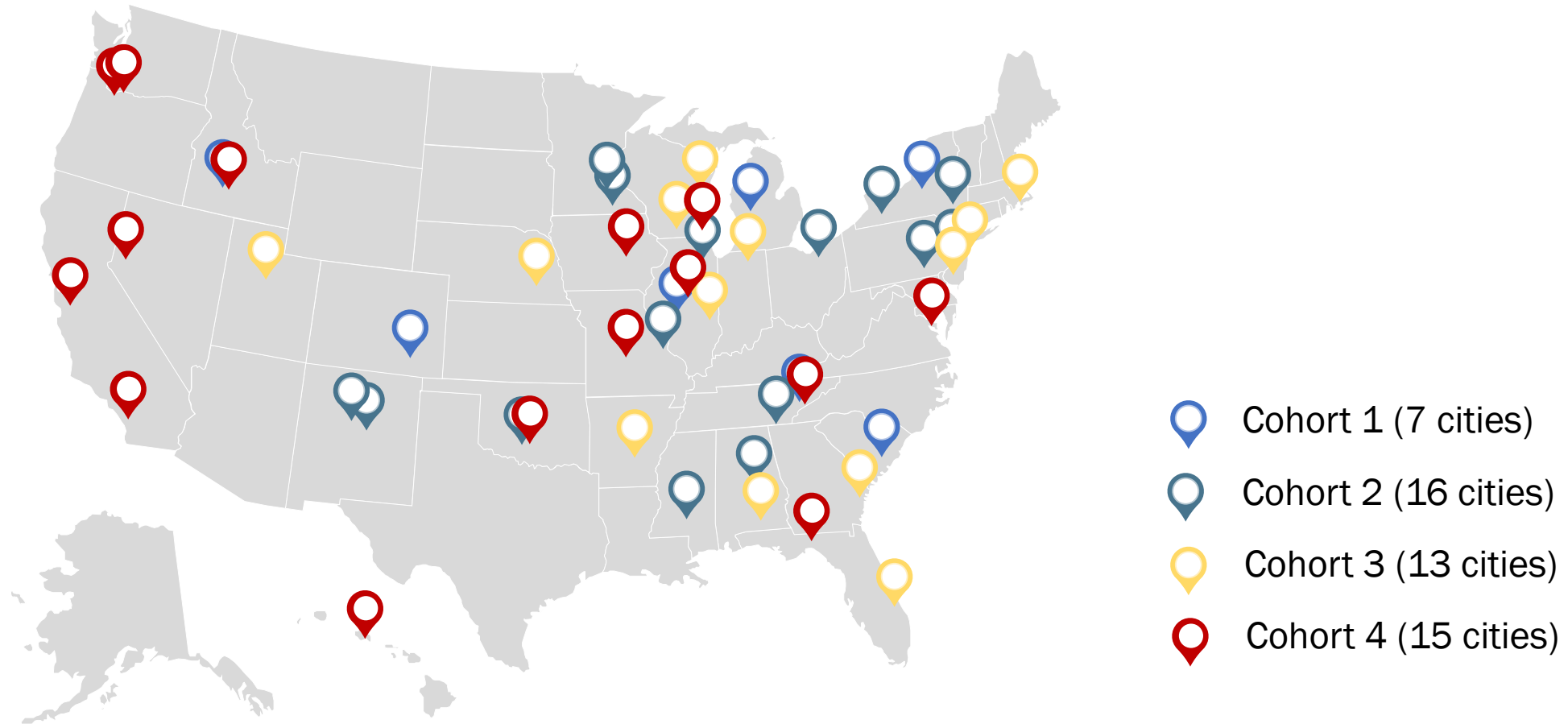
- Nominate an anchor challenge
- Provide a dynamic supervisor
- Commit to continued growth within the city team and broader municipal organization

Over the course of 24 months, fellows participate in a structured program that aligns with other flagship programming

Programming, Training, and Support

- Fellows will participate in a **facilitated process** to understand and address the anchor problem proposed by the city.
- Throughout this process, we support fellows to **advance the work on the anchor challenge** and **build key skills and capabilities** among other members in city hall.
- The **in-person training provided to fellows** aligns with content provided during flagship programming for mayors and senior leaders.
- Fellows and cities benefit from ongoing coaching and **access to Bloomberg Harvard staff, expertise, and resources.**

We are now accepting applications for the fifth cohort of cities and fellows



Select 2022 City Hall Fellows



Mehraan Keval

Grand Rapids, MI

Harvard Kennedy School

Mehraan supported the Director of Oversight and Public Accountability to create a **data-informed approach to link police oversight and community engagement.**



Samantha Beck

Boise, ID

Harvard Kennedy School

Sam worked with the city to build **innovation and performance management capabilities** while implementing key components of the city's Climate Action Roadmap.



Sai Joshi

Springfield, IL

Harvard Graduate School of Design

Sai worked to create and implement a **data-driven and community-based strategy for redevelopment and revitalization** of the Eastside neighborhood.



Alex Marsicovetere

Knoxville, TN

Harvard School of Education

Alex led the City's efforts toward **data-driven and innovative sustainable transportation and mobility investments** to reduce GHG emissions.

For potential Host Cities, the application is the first step



Application

A short online application with a description of your anchor problem



Anchor challenge scoping

Finalization of the anchor challenge scope with support from the Bloomberg Harvard team.



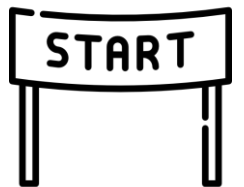
Pre-Match Interviews

80' interview calls with fellow candidates. These calls are structured like a job interview and will allow potential fellows to engage directly with city staff. **The result of these calls will be fellow-city matches and fellowship offers to students.**



Scoping Call(s)

A 50-minute Zoom call with selected cities **to detail the nominated problem and provide additional context.**



What does a successful city application look like?

A strong anchor challenge

- The anchor challenge should reflect a problem that is **one of the mayor's top priorities** and is **long-term in nature**
- The city should **have access to data** to inform the problem or potential solutions
- City **resources** have or will be committed to **address the challenge**

A commitment to continued learning

- The Initiative's core capabilities of **collaboration, using data, and innovative and iterative problem-solving** are critical to the solution
- Skills applied in working on the anchor problem can be **applied to other priorities in the city**

Resources to support the fellow's work

- A **dynamic supervisor** to support the fellow's work who can ensure access to the people and information needed to succeed
- The supervisor should have **responsibilities across a portfolio**, thus encouraging the transfer of skills and capabilities beyond the designated anchoring priority challenge

How is the fellow hired and supported?



Fellows are hired by a third-party payroll servicer, who will provide salary and benefits. All costs are covered by Bloomberg Harvard, thanks to grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies.



Host cities supervise the fellows' work and manage their day-to-day and strategic efforts. Cities also provide performance assessments, annual leave tracking, and access to grievance policies.



Fellows participate in ongoing programming and support provided by Bloomberg Harvard, including multiple in-person convenings in Cambridge.



Prior to fellowship placements, Bloomberg Harvard to enter into a formal MOU with each host city clarifying terms. MOU terms will be provided during the scoping process.

What's going to happen next?



Submit an Application [here](#)

by Friday, October 17 at 11:59 pm ET



Participate in a Scoping Call

Nov 2025 - Jan 2029



Pre-Match Interviews with Candidates

Spring 2026

Questions?

Please feel free to contact us!

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