

CONTACT:
Rebecca Trout
National Civic League
303-571-4343
RebeccaT@ncl.org
www.nationalcivicleague.org

The National Civic League Seeks Applicants for 2025 All-America City Award!

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Civic League is now accepting applications for the 2025 [All-America City Award](#)! The theme for 2025 is “*Strengthening Environmental Sustainability through Inclusive Community Engagement.*” The League is seeking communities that actively engage residents, businesses, and government stakeholders in initiatives to promote environmental sustainability and strengthen community resilience.

Apply to join the 9 communities from Maryland that have won the All-America City Award! You can view the [full list of past recipients here](#).

Communities interested in applying for the 2025 All-America City Award should submit a [letter of intent](#) to apply by **December 30th**, which saves applicants \$100 on the application fee. Please note that a letter of intent is not required to apply.

The full application can be downloaded at (<https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/america-city-award/how-to-apply/>) and is due **February 27, 2025**. Twenty finalists will be named in March of 2025 and will be invited to attend the All-America City Award event in Denver, CO in June, during which the ten eventual winners will be selected and announced.

2025 Theme and Criteria:

Climate change presents imminent and complex dangers to local communities, demonstrated in part by rising temperatures, intensified extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and ecological disturbances. Urgent and equitable action is imperative to shield vulnerable populations and cultivate resilient communities capable of withstanding and thriving in the face of environmental, economic, and social impacts. Particularly, low-income, under-resourced, high-density, and communities of color will bear the brunt of these impacts due to limited resources and historical disinvestment.

AAC applicants will need to demonstrate a steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability through meaningful community engagement initiatives. Whether through conservation projects, renewable energy initiatives, waste reduction efforts, or green infrastructure developments, applicants should exemplify the spirit of collaboration and civic responsibility necessary to meet the moment.

The 2025 All-America City application will ask applicants to discuss the strength of their civic capital—the formal and informal relationships, networks and capacities they use to make decisions and solve problems—and to provide examples of three community-driven programs that

have adapted and transformed the community. At least one of these efforts must be focused on the 2025 theme – *Strengthening Environmental Sustainability through Inclusive Community Engagement*.

About the Award:

Since 1949, the National Civic League has designated towns, boroughs, cities, counties, and regions as All-America Cities for their outstanding civic accomplishments. The award was described by George H. Gallup as the “Nobel Prize for constructive citizenship,” the award celebrates exemplary grassroots community problem-solving and honors communities that have united to achieve stunning results.

The award spurs communities to use innovative approaches to create stronger connections among residents, nonprofits, academic institutions, businesses, and government leaders. The AAC Award celebrates those efforts and becomes a platform for sharing innovation, inspiration, and insight with other communities throughout the country.

“The All-America City Award offers an opportunity for community stakeholders to come together to share and be recognized for programs and projects that are addressing resident-identified challenges. Applicants consistently note that the process leaves them feeling a greater sense of pride in their community and motivation to tackle the tough issues that persist,” Rebecca Trout, All-America City Award Director, said. *“The League has the privilege to bring these communities together to share their innovative programs on a national stage to help spread and scale these promising practices with other communities facing similar challenges.*

About the League:

The mission of the National Civic League is to advance inclusive civic engagement and promote innovations in democracy to make decision-making more participatory, equitable, and effective.

Founded in 1894 by a group led by Teddy Roosevelt and Louis Brandeis, the League is America’s oldest good governance organization. The League championed many of the democracy innovations of the early 20th Century; today, the League maintains the Model City Charter, organizes the All-America City Award, publishes the *National Civic Review*, and supports an extensive national network of local elected, appointed, and civic leaders. The League’s [Center for Democracy Innovation](#) works with public officials in the U.S. to understand, test, and disseminate the next generation of civic innovations, which have the potential to make democracy more participatory, equitable, and productive.

For 75 years, the National Civic League’s All-America City Award has uncovered, celebrated, and disseminated the finest examples of American civic innovation by inviting communities across the country to apply for recognition based on the strength of their civic capital – the formal and informal relationships, networks and capacities that enable communities to solve problems and thrive. Each year over 500 people from 20 finalist communities share how their communities are working together to tackle challenges and create real change.

[Photo](#)

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