Bloomberg Philanthropies
City Data Alliance

CITY DATA ALLIANCE: **ACCELERATOR**

Through a 6-month curriculum of classroom training, individualized city coaching, and opportunities to apply learning led by the Bloomberg Center for Government Excellence at Johns Hopkins University (GovEx), the City Data Alliance Accelerator (Accelerator) will help mayors and their selected senior team:

1. **Lead confidently with data,** including knowing how to integrate data practices into your daily routines and decision making.
2. **Invest in the right people, practices, and platforms**, including how to attract and retain new data talent, invest in existing talent, and prioritize the investments that can advance data practices in your city.
3. **Empower people to be part of the solution,** including how to ask internal and external stakeholders to come to the table with data, and effectively communicate with staff and residents using data.

By the end of the Accelerator, your city will create or refine a citywide data strategy: a three-year vision and actionable plan designed to advance your city's use of data and improve city outcomes. It will cover the core components of data governance, quality, use, and transparency, and include:

- **Data workforce strategy** that assesses the state of data skills and capacity in your city, identifies opportunities to upskill current city staff, and describes how you will use resources to attract and retain new talent;
- **Consistent standard** for collecting and using disaggregated demographic data; and
- **Data-use protocol** for your city to consistently capture and understand how you are using data to modify programs and direct resources to better serve residents.

The Accelerator includes:

- **3-day In-Person Convening:** Mayors will participate in 3 days of activities with their peers and learn the role they have to play in creating a data-informed culture. Mayors will be introduced to the core concepts that will be covered during the 6 month period and how to lead their team to be successful during this time. Mayors will be exposed to the possibilities presented by adopting a data-informed culture and set a vision for applying data to their top priorities to share with their senior teams. A designated "CDA Lead" will join mayors during the latter half of the convening for an orientation to the rest of the Accelerator programming. For a city to participate in the Bloomberg Philanthropies City Data Alliance, mayors must participate in the convening - no surrogates will be accepted.
- **Keynote Sessions:** Virtual keynote sessions for senior teams led by world-class practitioners and faculty to assess real-world examples of the work in action and to collaborate with peers.
- **Hands-on workshops for senior teams:** Virtual group sessions for senior team members to unpack the skills from keynote sessions and plan for how the practices can be applied in their city.
- **Individual city coaching sessions:** Regular, virtual check-ins with your Coach, who will support you in advancing your implementation plan.
- **Showcases:** Opportunities for the senior team and mayor to demonstrate how you put the learning period priorities into action in your city (e.g., a new data routine, enactment of a new policy) to receive feedback from your Coach and ensure that these practices are sustained moving forward.
- Additionally, mayors will be expected to re-engage with the team and their GovEx Coach at key moments throughout the 6 month training to provide direction or make decisions.

Mayors can consider the following roles when selecting the senior team (3-4 members) to participate in Accelerator programming:

- City Manager or Chief of Staff;
- A Chief Data Officer (or similar);
- A senior-level role responsible for driving equity initiatives/accountability;
- A chief policy staffer; and/or
- A communications lead.

Each city is unique and staff with different roles than the above may make sense for the city's team composition.