

# PRESS RELEASE: SEVEN CITIES TO PARTNER WITH CIVSTART ON GOVERNMENT INNOVATION PROGRAM

*In conjunction with the National League of Cities (NLC) and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, CivStart and seven US cities have committed to working together to enhance the way cities procure the most innovative startup solutions.*

WASHINGTON, DC, October 21, 2020 – [CivStart](#), a non-profit accelerator bringing govtech innovations to state and local government, today announced the seven cities that have committed to their year-long City Innovation Ecosystems (CIE) Program. These cities, from across the US, will work with CivStart to rethink the way that they currently procure technology solutions, with the goal of being more accessible to small-businesses, underrepresented entrepreneurs, and govtech startups.

CivStart's program aims to help cities navigate the many challenges in engaging technology partners to address civic problems such as public health, economic recovery, and micro mobility transit. City Mayors have committed to working with CivStart — one of several program experts in the CIE program — to collect and refine their challenges from across governmental departments and to then identify innovative startup solutions that meet their needs and can demonstrate their technologies through a pilot program.

“Leveraging all resources to support the public good is more important than ever,” explained Anthony Jamison, CEO of CivStart. “The COVID-19 crisis has added urgency to the need for cities to adapt to socially-distant and online services. In addition, the cultures of municipal government and startups are dramatically different, and communication barriers can be a serious hurdle. CivStart's team is in a unique position to help build this needed honest and inclusive ecosystem and we are pleased to start this important work with these seven cities.”

“You cannot undervalue the importance of a solid and connected ecosystem to support entrepreneurs,” said Philip Gaskin, vice president, Entrepreneurship at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. “We dedicate ourselves to providing the tools necessary to strengthen communities for entrepreneurs. In addition to advocating for funding, city leaders can help entrepreneurs gain access to education and the sharing of ideas and best practices to achieve success.”

CivStart will continue supporting cities in identifying their challenges, finding and vetting startup solutions, and helping roll out pilot programs into July 2021. All the city leaders in the CIE program commit to creating the right policies, program, and practices to ensure their communities can thrive in the global, innovation-driven economy. The seven cities that have committed to CivStart's program are:

- ❖ The City of Alexandria, Virginia
- ❖ Barton County, Kansas
- ❖ The Borough of Carlisle, Pennsylvania
- ❖ The City of Manor, Texas
- ❖ The City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- ❖ The City of Rochester, New York
- ❖ The City of Wichita, Kansas

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### **About CivStart**

CivStart believes solving society's biggest problems starts at the local level. Our mission is to build an honest and inclusive ecosystem of solutions that serve local governments and their communities. We bridge the gap between early stage companies and local governments, first by identifying cutting-edge govtech and civic technology companies and then providing expert consulting while leveraging strategic partnerships with governments, established businesses, and investors for the benefit of all. The technologies that go through the CivStart program aren't just made in a sterile lab, but have been made with guidance from government leaders to ensure that once in the wild, the technologies serve community needs, not the other way around. Learn more at [CivStart.org](http://CivStart.org).

### **About the Kauffman Foundation**

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation is a private, nonpartisan foundation that works together with communities in education and entrepreneurship to increase opportunities that allow all people to learn, to take risks, and to own their success. The Kauffman Foundation is based in Kansas City, Missouri, and uses its \$2 billion in assets to collaboratively help people be self-sufficient, productive citizens. For more information, visit [www.kauffman.org](http://www.kauffman.org) and connect with us at [www.twitter.com/kauffmanfdn](https://www.twitter.com/kauffmanfdn) and [www.facebook.com/kauffmanfdn](https://www.facebook.com/kauffmanfdn).

### **About National League of Cities**

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people. NLC works to strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions. Its City Innovation Ecosystems program asks city leaders to commit to creating the right policies, program, and practices to ensure their communities can thrive in the global, innovation-driven economy, and it helps participating cities reach their goals by providing technical assistance, seed funding, and peer learning.