



Innovation Cohort Application Guide

Civic Action Planning for Civic & Community Engagement (CAP)

What is Campus Action Planning for Civic & Community Engagement?

The [Campus Action Plan for Civic & Community Engagement \(CAP\) Project](#) is a national initiative that supports colleges and universities in developing and implementing institution-wide strategies for civic and community engagement. Through convenings, cohorts, learning communities, and technical support, CAP engages campus leadership teams in advancing equitable partnerships, integrating civic and community engagement into curricula, and expanding opportunities for students and educators to address real-world challenges. It emphasizes accountability, sustainability, and ethical engagement as core components of institutional change. [Learn more about CAP →](#)

CAP Innovation Cohort Overview & Benefits

A central activity of the CAP Project is the CAP Innovation Cohort. This is an experience for a cohort of 20 colleges and universities that are committed to deep, transformative planning, and are ready to engage with Campus Compact from June to December 2026 to develop action plans through a guided process. Each institution selected to participate in the CAP Innovation Cohort will form a planning and implementation team of six to 10 campus and community members. The team, which will include one to two team leaders, and participate in a range of activities designed to provide structure to the planning process while also allowing for maximum alignment and adaptability to the institution's context, needs, and strategic goals.

The CAP Innovation Cohort offers campus–community teams a structured seven-month arc of support designed to guide the development and initial implementation of a Campus Action Plan. This offering is an exciting pilot program that will provide critical input to Campus Compact's CAP initiative as it continues to grow and develop. This experience is facilitated by Campus Compact CAP Fellows, a team of nationally recognized civic and community engagement experts. Participating institutions will benefit from a comprehensive suite of resources, including:

- **Financial Support:** A **\$3,000 mini-grant** to defray costs associated with CAP development and implementation, including travel and lodging for the mandatory in-person institute.
- **Intensive Training:** Access to a cohort-specific in-person CAP Institute providing a dedicated space for foundational planning.
- **Ongoing Guidance:** Monthly virtual Cohort convenings led by CAP Fellows and occasional specialized webinars based on CAP-relevant topics.

- **Tailored Technical Assistance:** Access to virtual coaching and technical assistance, available in both small group and one-on-one formats to address campus-community team challenges. CAP Coaches are field experts who, themselves have led and participated in developing and implementing institutional strategic planning for civic and community engagement.
- **Early Access to Resources:** Cohort participants will receive early access to the latest CAP resources and tools via a closed-access shared resource drive.

CAP Innovation Cohort Timeline

Teams selected to participate in the CAP Innovation will need to plan on participating in required sessions from June – December and to provide final CAP submission that will be outlined as part of the cohort experience. (Dates and times subject to change. Campus Compact will provide ample notice for any revisions in the timeline.)

CAP Innovation Cohort Application Opens	April 13, 2026
CAP Innovation Cohort Information Sessions (VIRTUAL) – <i>Same content</i>	April 16, 2026, 2 pm EDT April 22, 2026, 2 pm EDT
CAP Innovation Cohort App. Priority Deadline <i>Applications accepted on a rolling basis until full or July 9.</i>	May 11, 2026 11:59 pm PDT
CAP Innovation Cohort Notifications Sent	May 13 – July 10, 2026
CAP Innovation Cohort Mini-Grants Distributed	June 16 – July 13, 2026
CAP Innovation Cohort Orientation (VIRTUAL) <i>Same content – REQUIRED to attend one</i>	June 16, 2026, 12 – 3 pm EDT July 14, 2026, 12 – 3 pm EDT
CAP Innovation Cohort Coaching Calls (VIRTUAL) <i>For June orientation participants only</i>	July 6 – 30, 2026
CAP Innovation Cohort Institute (In-Person) <i>REQUIRED to attend</i>	August 11-12, 2026 , Metropolitan State University
CAP Innovation Cohort Monthly Convenings (VIRTUAL) <i>REQUIRED to attend all sessions</i>	September 8, 2026, 1 – 2:30 pm EDT October 20, 2026, 1 – 2:30 pm EDT November 17, 2026, 1 – 2:30 pm EDT
CAP Innovation Cohort Closing Session (VIRTUAL) <i>REQUIRED to attend</i>	December 8, 2026, 12 – 3 pm EDT
CAP Submission Deadline <i>REQUIRED</i>	January 15, 2027 11:59 pm PDT

Innovation Cohort Application

[Link to online submission form](#)

Campus Profile

We are seeking a diverse group of colleges and universities who are already committed to deep, transformative planning, and are ready to engage with Campus Compact as part of the 2026 CAP Innovation Cohort.. Although institutional membership in Campus Compact is preferred, we will consider the overall composition of the CAP Innovation Cohort in the selection process..

Institution State: (look-up function)*

Institution Name: (look-up function)*

Application Submitter Contact Information

First Name:*

Last Name:*

Primary Role: (drop-down menu)*

Title:*

Email:*

Phone Number:

Faculty/Staff: How long have you been doing higher education community engagement/service-learning work?

Carnegie Classification History: Has your institution applied for the Elective Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement within the last three years (2024–2026)?*

Yes

No

Not Sure

Readiness & Strategic Alignment

Please provide concise responses to the following prompts.

Strategic Motivation: Describe your campus–community team/institution’s primary motivations for developing a Campus Action Plan at this time. How does the development of a CAP align with your current institutional and/or community goals? (300 word maximum).*

Anticipated Support Needed: Where do you anticipate needing the most support when developing the Campus Action Plan and/or during the development and implementation process? *Select all that apply.**

- Self-Assessment – Self-study and information gathering period of structured reflection on your institution's past and current community engagement work, foundational documents and data, and the characteristics and priorities of the external communities you engage.,
- Aspirational Planning: Developed based on insights from the Self-Study phase and articulates a shared vision for community engagement and develop the goals and actions needed to pursue it.
- Scoping & Operationalizing: Developing, prioritizing, and defining the timeframe, metrics, and action steps for achieving the aspirational plan.
- Implementation, Monitoring & Adaptation: Deploying the aspirational plan, tracking and measuring progress and success, refreshing and revising the plan as institutional and community contexts shift.

Please discuss/provide more information for your selection(s) (250 word maximum)*

Institutional Capacity: What resources (e.g., employee time, existing group efforts—councils, boards, committees—or funding) will the institution commit to ensure the CAP moves from planning to implementation? (300 word maximum)*

Team Composition

To ensure a successful CAP, a diverse and committed campus–community team is required. Teams must consist of 6 to 10 members, including a senior administrator (e.g., Dean or above), community partner(s), and faculty and staff leadership. Staff representation from outside Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Student is strongly encouraged as well as student representation.

Anticipated Team Lead #1

Name:*

Title:*

Department/Unit:*

email:*

Anticipated Team Lead #2 (optional)

Name:
Title:
Department/Unit:
Email:

Team Roster: Provide the name, title and department/unit for a minimum of 5 additional **anticipated** CAP team members. Additional team members may be added throughout the process.

Name:*	Name:*
Title:*	Title:*
Department/Unit/Affiliation:*	Department/Unit/Affiliation:*
email:*	email:*
Name:*	Name:
Title:*	Title:
Department/Unit/Affiliation:*	Department/Unit/Affiliation:
email:*	email:
Name:*	Name:
Title:*	Title:
Department/Unit/Affiliation:*	Department/Unit/Affiliation:
email:*	email:
Name:*	Name:
Title:*	Title:
Department/Unit/Affiliation:*	Department/Unit/Affiliation:
email:*	email:
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Department/Unit/Affiliation:	Department/Unit/Affiliation:
Email:	email:

Uploads

Executive Support

Upload a letter of support from a cabinet-level leader at your institution that demonstrates institutional buy-in to complete a CAP.

Upload Executive Letter of Support* [Choose File](#)

In-Person Institute Attendance

By submitting this application, I confirm that a minimum of two individuals from our campus-community team will attend the mandatory in-person Campus Action Planning Institute. At this time the dates of this CAP Institute is August 12-13, 2026, with the location to be determined. These dates may be adjusted slightly to accommodate the needs of the Campus Compact and the host institution but the dates and a location will be confirmed by May 26, 2026.

By typing my name below, I signify that the information submitted is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.*

Source of Information

How did you learn about this program?

If other, please describe

Submit

* Signifies required responses.