



COMMUNITY COMPASS

LOHENGRIN FOUNDATION

FROM INQUIRY TO IMPACT

LOHENGRIN FOUNDATION

Pre-Proposal Information Session

May 27, 2026



Housekeeping



This session is being recorded.



Community Compass is a consulting contract – not a grant. Community-based organizations with relevant expertise are warmly encouraged to apply.



Please hold questions for the Q&A at the end. You may also submit questions in chat.



An FAQ document will be compiled, shared with all registered participants, and posted on our [website](#) within one week of this session.

Agenda

- 1 About the Foundation
- 2 Vision
- 3 Scope of Work
- 4 Targeted Communities
- 5 Proposal Requirements
- 6 Timeline
- 7 Selection Criteria & Budget
- 8 Q&A



COMMUNITY COMPASS

LOHENGRIN FOUNDATION



About the Lohengrin Foundation

The Lohengrin Foundation is a private family foundation headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. For more than 60 years, the Foundation has invested in programs and initiatives advancing equity, opportunity, and justice to eradicate systemic barriers and promote vibrant, safe, and thriving communities.

We partner with and invest in organizations that guide transformational programs, advocacy, and policy initiatives to drive social impact and systems change.



OUR VALUES

EQUITY

We embrace differentiated approaches that activate the voices, power, and full potential of those served by addressing the root causes and impacts of structural and systemic racial, social, and economic disparities.

OPPORTUNITY

We believe that equitable access to educational, economic, and social mobility efforts must exist to be attainable by all.

JUSTICE

We act to achieve fairness, equity, and the removal of systemic barriers in pursuit of a just society.

COLLABORATION

We aim to address the complex challenges facing our society, amplify our impact, and create lasting, positive change through partnerships with community stakeholders, governmental agencies, policymakers, peer funders, and those directly impacted by the changes we are trying to advance.

Community Compass: Vision

Central question: **What would it look like if our commitment to centering community were driven not by us — but by the communities we seek to serve?**



A community-driven grantmaking framework rooted in deep listening, hyperlocal issue identification, and shared community-defined outcomes.



Not a departure from the Foundation's existing work — a deliberate expansion of it, deepening our commitment to partnership.

FOUR PILLARS

Inquiry

Issue Identification

Invest

Impact



Three Consultant Tracks

You may apply to one, two, or all three tracks. A single entity may be awarded more than one track.

A

Strategy Consultant

Guide the Community Compass rollout, provide subject matter expertise, and support development and training of Community Advisory Councils.

B

Chicago Community Engagement Consultant

Lead listening sessions and community engagement across 8 Foundation-selected communities on Chicago's South and West sides.

C

Massachusetts Community Engagement Consultant

Lead listening, facilitation, and community engagement across 6 Foundation-selected communities (3 Boston neighborhoods and 3 Gateway Cities).



Targeted Communities

The Foundation has pre-selected 14 communities across two geographies, selected based on housing need data: homeownership rates, eviction rates, building code violations, and existing partner density.

TRACK B — Chicago (8 communities)

South & West Sides

- Englewood
- East Garfield Park
- Humboldt Park
- North Lawndale
- South Lawndale (Little Village)
- South Shore
- West Garfield Park
- Woodlawn

TRACK C — Massachusetts (6 communities)

Boston Neighborhoods & Gateway Cities

- Chelsea
- East Boston
- Lynn
- Mattapan
- Roxbury
- Springfield

Note: Data will be aggregated across geographies; future funding is not restricted to these communities.



Proposal Requirements

Maximum 12 pages · PDF format · Due June 10, 2026 by 9:00 AM CT · Email to info@lohengrinfndn.org

1

Organizational Overview

Mission & relevant experience

3

Approach & Methodology

Theory of practice; community engagement approach

5

Relevant Experience

2-3 similar projects with client, scope, outcomes

7

Team

Key personnel, roles, qualifications

9

Availability & Capacity

Confirm August planning start; capacity considerations

2

Track(s) Applying For

Indicate which track(s) and why

4

Subject Matter Expertise

Housing expertise (Tracks B & C)

6

Community Rootedness

Relationship to communities served (Tracks B & C)

8

Budget

Per deliverable; with narrative

10

Cross-Track Collaboration

Multi-track management or multi-consultant approach

Project Timeline

1 **RFP Released**
May 14, 2026

2 **Pre-Proposal Info Session**
May 27, 2026

3 **Proposals Due**
June 10, 2026 · 9:00 AM CT

4 **Foundation Review Period**
June 11 – July 10, 2026

5 **Finalist Interviews**
Week of July 13, 2026

6 **Award Notifications**
Week of July 27, 2026

7 **Planning Period**
August 2026

8 **Phase 1 — Inquiry**
Fall 2026 – Winter 2027

9 **Phase 2 — Issue Identification**
Winter – Spring 2027

10 **Community Validation**
Spring – Summer 2027

11 **Board Handoff**
Summer 2027

12 **Year One Learning Documentation**
Fall 2027

Selection Criteria — All Tracks



Approach & Methodology

A clear, coherent theory of practice responsive to the scope and the Community Compass framework



Commitment to Trust-Based Values

Embedded in how you describe your work, not just asserted



Relevant Experience

2-3 examples of similar projects with client, scope, and outcomes



Team Qualifications & Capacity

Key personnel with clear roles; organizational capacity for this scope



Budget

Proportionate to scope, broken out by deliverable with a clear narrative. Submit your best competitive bid



Overall Fit

Genuine alignment with Lohengrin Foundation values and the goals of Community Compass

Selection Criteria — Track-Specific

TRACK A

Strategy Consultant

Complex multi-stakeholder process design

Previous advisory body / CAC facilitation experience

Cross-geography coordination capacity

Participatory grantmaking knowledge (preferred)

TRACKS B & C

Community Engagement Consultants

Community rootedness

Listening session facilitation experience

Housing subject matter expertise

Multi-consultant collaboration

GEO-SPECIFIC

Geography Requirements

Track B: Deep rootedness in Chicago's South and West Side communities required

Track C: Deep rootedness in Boston neighborhoods and Massachusetts Gateway Cities required



Q&A

Please put your question in the chat,
or use the raised hand feature to join the queue.

*All questions and answers will be compiled in an FAQ document
and shared with registered participants within one week.*

Next Steps

1

Review the full RFP document – scope of work, deliverables, and qualifications for each track.

2

Submit questions by June 1, 2026, 9:00 AM CT to info@lohengrinfdn.org for inclusion in the FAQ document.

3

Determine which track(s) to apply to. You may apply to one, two, or all three.

4

Prepare your proposal addressing all required elements. Maximum 12 pages (appendix not included in page count). Budget broken out by deliverable.

5

Submit by June 10, 2026, 9:00 AM CT to info@lohengrinfdn.org
Subject line: "Community Compass – Track [A / B / C] RFP 2026"

6

Finalist interviews: Prepare the principal proposal team member, three sample documents from similar prior projects, and three references.

Recording and FAQ will be shared with all registered applicants within one week of this session.