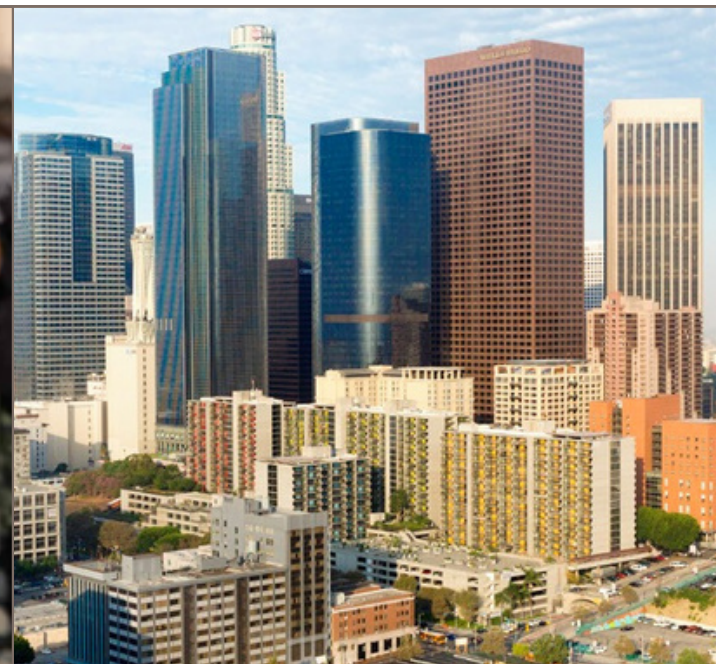


March 2026

THE JOHN RANDOLPH HAYNES AND DORA HAYNES FOUNDATION

*Governance & Democracy
Grantmaking Initiative*

Application Guidelines, Instructions, and Process



The John Randolph Haynes and Dora
HAYNES
FOUNDATION

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Initiative Overview

Governance and Democracy in the Los Angeles Region

In 2023, the Haynes Foundation launched a new initiative to focus its major research grants on Governance and Democracy in the Los Angeles region. The Foundation now centers its research grants around enhancing the quality, form, and results of democratic political participation and the performance of government institutions.

This new initiative is firmly rooted in the Haynes Foundation's rich history, enduring mission, and century of work bridging high-quality academic research and public action to identify and advance solutions to complex challenges within our region.

This specific focus on governance and democracy emerged from conversations around our own board table and beyond, in gatherings and interviews with nearly forty diverse experts and leaders across multiple sectors and subject areas. What emerged from these future-focused conversations was a shared recognition that our public systems have not kept pace with our rapid, ever-changing environment.

The Foundation will support solution-focused research that provides data to shape innovative, evidence-based problem-solving. Under this initiative, the Foundation will fund research to:

- Add significantly to knowledge and understanding of governance and democracy issues in the Los Angeles region (Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties).
- Help influence policies and practices.
- Offer promise of improving the lives of our people and our communities.

Our research grants will be either:

- **Planning:** one-year grants for up to \$100,000.
- **Research-to-Action:** grants made for up to two years, with possible consideration for a renewable third-year. The grant maximum is \$250,000 per year. Depending on the research-to-action project's nature, a larger award may be considered.

How do planning and research-to-action grants differ? A planning grant is most appropriate when the project is still in a developmental stage. This could mean that time and funding are needed to flesh out the intention to forge community and/or policymaker linkages; to firm up the team that will carry out the research project;

present work still to be done on identifying comparable research, and to plan the project itself; to identify enough funding to bring the project to fruition; and other steps that make the project not quite ready to move forward.

By contrast, a research-to-grant is closer to being ready to go. There will still be plenty of planning and adjustments to be made, but the organizational linkages are largely in place. The research plan is closer to being ready, and there is a clear sense of how this work will be implemented and evaluated down the road.

In short, the planning grant is to help get the project ready to go. The research-to-action is closer to being ready to go.

The Foundation will accept grant applications for either planning or research-to-action grants. Those who complete planning grants may later apply for research-to-action grants.

NEW!! The application process varies by grant type:

- **Planning:** Applicants will submit a short proposal for a planning grant.
- **Research-to-Action:** Applicants will be required to submit an initial Letter of Interest (LOI). The Foundation will select from among the LOIs those that will be invited to submit a full proposal for a research-to-action grant.

To what end?

We aim to support research projects that both identify data-supported solutions to a challenge within our region and drive implementation of these solutions to make a measurable impact on improving the well-being of people throughout the Los Angeles region. In every policy area, whether housing and homelessness, transportation, climate change, economic inequality, and many others, we need better governance and a deeper democracy to reach solutions.

Proposals are expected to be timely, marked by scholarly excellence in design, execution, and evaluation, with meaningful engagement and indication of interest in the research topic by affected policymakers and stakeholders.

Priority will be given to a proposal that actively involves researchers and policymakers from governmental institutions together with affected community stakeholders that address implementation, action, and positive change, and:

- Is focused in the five-county Los Angeles region or a portion of the region to advance good governance and/or strengthen democracy.
- Presents a straightforward research question and a quality research methodology.

- Features a research question or questions selected in collaboration with the stakeholders most affected by the problem.
- Includes outreach and/or collaboration with a researcher, stakeholder, and policymaker, including community-based organizations to improve the likelihood that the research will be implemented to solve the challenge identified.
- Presents a clear plan for utilizing the data developed to drive solutions to challenges within the Los Angeles region.
- Defines progress, success, and a timeline for addressing the challenge(s) identified.
- Explains how Haynes Foundation funds, which are limited, might be used to leverage the funding of others or to work in collaboration with others.
- Includes a plan and process for evaluating the impact of the research and implementation.
- Is written in clear, plain, and accessible language

NEW!! The Haynes Foundation considers grant applications from public and private universities, university centers, and **nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, including academic partnerships**, whose work aligns with the Foundation's mission and priority areas.

2026 Deadlines

NEW!! Governance and Democracy Submission Dates

Governance and Democracy LOI and Full Proposal submission deadlines for the remainder of 2026 are as follows:

- ~~January 6~~
- Tuesday, **April 7**
- Tuesday, **June 30**
- Tuesday, **October 6**

Planning Grant Proposals

Planning Grant Proposal Requirements

NEW!! Planning grants no longer require a Letter of Interest (LOI); applicants may submit a proposal directly through the [John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation's Online Application Portal](#). All applications under this initiative will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Funding decisions will be made on a quarterly calendar.

Your application will address the following:

1. What problem or question are you addressing?
2. What is your proposed approach to addressing your project's issue(s)? How does this approach break new ground or advance existing approaches?
3. Who will potentially benefit from this project, and how?
4. How does this project align with the Foundation's mission of advancing governance and democracy in the L.A. region?
5. How will you use this planning grant to develop your project?
6. Where are you in refining a straightforward research question and research methodology best suited for the topic and goals of this project?
7. Active engagement with stakeholders is critical. What is your plan for identifying partners to improve the likelihood that the information you produce will be implemented to solve the challenge(s) identified?
8. How do you plan to pursue additional funding once the planning grant is complete?

As part of the proposal, please include with your application the following supporting materials:

1. One-page budget for the one-year planning process.
2. Project timeline for the one-year planning process.
3. List of names and qualifications of key project staff and partners involved or identified to date. **Limit one paragraph about each partner.**

Please do not add materials that are not listed in the application link.

Research-to-Action Grants Process

Letter of Interest: The Gateway for Research-to-Action Grants

The gateway for research-to-action grants is a short Letter of Interest (LOI). The Foundation will select from among LOIs those that will be invited to submit full proposals.

The LOI is a short expression of your research-to-action project in letter form. This letter gives the Foundation a thumbnail sketch of your proposed project, the potential or actual partners involved, the research question and challenge you propose to address and solve, and a brief description of your project implementation plan.

This letter will help the Foundation determine whether your project meets our essential Governance and Democracy Initiative grant criteria and priorities before asking you to take the time to submit a formal grant proposal. Those selected will be invited to submit a full grant proposal for further consideration. LOIs are considered in quarterly cycles.

The Haynes Foundation only accepts LOI submissions online. To access the LOI submission form, please visit the Foundation's website at www.haynesfoundation.org, or visit the [John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation's Online Application Portal](#).

Research-to-Action LOI Requirements

The research-to-action LOI must be limited to two pages in 12-point type and should address the following:

1. Concisely describe the problem or challenge your proposal will address.
2. Briefly set out the research approach, the question you are addressing and the methodology you will be using.
3. Concisely describe the problem or challenge your proposal will address.
4. Briefly set out the research approach, the question you are addressing and the methodology you will be using.

5. Explain how this proposal falls under the Governance and Democracy initiative of the Haynes Foundation.
6. Who will be conducting the research and leading the project, and what are their qualifications for this work?
7. To what extent have you developed potential partnerships in the community and/or with policy makers?
8. What do you expect to be the impact of your project on the communities of Los Angeles?

If your LOI is approved for further consideration, you will be contacted directly by a member of our foundation staff followed by an invitation to submit a full grant proposal.

Research-to-Action Full Proposal Requirements

If your LOI for a research-to-action grant has been advanced, you will be invited to submit your full proposal through the [John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation's Online Portal](#). The full proposal is in part an elaboration of your LOI, but with more detail and depth by addressing the following:

1. What problem or question are you addressing?
2. What is your proposed approach to addressing your project's issue(s)? How does this approach break new ground or advance existing approaches?
3. Who will potentially benefit from this project, and how?
4. How does this work align with the Foundation's mission of advancing governance and democracy in the L.A. region?
5. Present your straightforward research question and methodology. Explain how this methodology is best suited for the topic and goals of this research.
6. How will the results of this research contribute to positive change in the L.A. region?
7. Active engagement with stakeholders is critical. Describe your plan to involve stakeholders most affected by the problem in the development and implementation of this project.

8. How did you identify and assemble your project partners to improve the likelihood that the data you produce will be implemented to solve the challenge identified?
9. How will you define and measure the impact of your project in addressing the challenge(s) identified?
10. How do you plan to pursue additional funding once the research-to-action grant is complete?

Additionally (but not in the LOI), please include the following supporting materials with your full proposal:

1. One-page budget for the one-year planning process.
2. Project timeline for the one-year planning process.
3. List of names and qualifications of key project staff and partners involved or identified to date. **Limit one paragraph about each partner.**

Please do not add materials that are not listed in the application link.

Reporting Requirements

Grant Reporting Requirements

The Foundation appreciates your diligent efforts and commitment to your project. We look forward to learning about your accomplishments, challenges faced, and lessons learned. Your work is important to us and to the community-wide effort to advance good governance and strengthen democracy in the Los Angeles region. We intend to share the results and insights you provide with community partners and to encourage further conversation and implementation based on them.

Upon completing your grant project, the Foundation requires that you provide us with a concise report (maximum three pages). This report should succinctly summarize the work and desired outcomes you and the members of your team have undertaken and emphasize how closely the completed work aligns with the original proposal you submitted. Your insights into the project's progress, challenges faced along the way, and tangible outcomes are invaluable to us. This will help advance the community learning process that the foundation considers critical to making a positive impact.

Furthermore, as an integral part of our ongoing partnership, we are eager to stay informed about any implementation, progress, problem-solving, or professional or public recognition that your work, supported by the Haynes Foundation, receives. Your achievements and the results of your work reflect not only your team's dedication but also the collective impact of our collaboration. For multi-year grants, the Foundation requires a brief progress report at the end of each year. Final reports are due 60 days (about 2 months) after grant completion. You can reference your grantee account on the Foundation's online portal and/or your grant letter for exact due dates.

By adhering to these reporting guidelines, you enable us to better understand the outcomes of our shared endeavors, learn from your experience to improve our grantmaking, disseminate and celebrate your accomplishments.

If you have questions about the reporting process or need assistance, please contact our staff. We are here to support you in any way we can.

All grant reporting requirements are to be submitted via your grantee account on the [John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation's Online Portal](#).

Contact Information

**To apply, visit our website at
www.haynesfoundation.org**

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