Call for Case Studies - FAQs

Efforts to Prevent Small Business Displacement in Gentrifying Neighborhoods

The [Small Business Anti-Displacement Network](#) (SBAN) is soliciting proposals for case studies of efforts to preserve small businesses in gentrifying neighborhoods in the U.S. and internationally. SBAN is particularly interested in efforts to preserve small businesses owned by immigrants and people of color. **Selected proposals will receive $20,000 for their case study work.**

Who should apply?

Individuals and teams working at small and large organizations in the public, private, and non-profit sectors (including universities). We particularly invite submissions from SBAN members and from organizations led by immigrants and people of color. We encourage U.S. and non-U.S. organizations to apply.

When will I be notified if my proposal is successful?

Applicants of the selected proposals will be notified Friday, July 15, 2022 by the close of business (EDT). Please visit the [SBAN Case Study webpage](#) for all other deadlines and milestones.

What if I am applying with people from different organizations? Why is there only one organization listed in the application? If I have a co-team member, which organization do I enter?

Organizations are encouraged to partner and collaborate on the proposal and subsequent work. However, only one organization can be identified as the main applicant, and one member of that organization should be listed as the "Key Contact." This will be the primary grantee and main SBAN point of contact.

However, all team members should attach CVs or resumes and contact information, including their organization affiliations, in the application. The main applicant organization will be responsible for contracting with SBAN and ensuring that all other team members are compensated. They will also be responsible for communicating any information from SBAN to all other team members.

What is the difference between a "Key Contact" and a "Project Leader"?

Only one person from the main applicant organization should be listed as the "Key Contact." Other team members who are serving a leadership role should be listed as "Project Leaders." Other support staff who will not play a key role in the design and execution of the project can be listed as "Additional Staff."

Can Ph.D. students apply?

Applicants should be individuals with direct and deep knowledge of small business anti-displacement issues. A Ph.D student, consultant, organizational entity, or public agency can apply and be the key contact and/or project leader.

Can you study the work of an organization that is not your own?

Yes. Applicants may propose to study the efforts of other organizations or their own.

At what geographical scale are you looking for proposals?

The proposal criteria does not specify scale. Applicants are encouraged to propose a scale that best fits them. Scales could be: hyper-local street; identifiable community, neighborhood, or business area; local jurisdictions; regional corridor; state; multi-state region; national; or an international site.

If there are similar applications from different geographic areas or contexts, would SBAN facilitate connections so applicants can collaborate rather than compete for funding?

SBAN is happy to make introductions to SBAN member organizations and encourage collaboration among applicants. If you are interested in partnering with an SBAN member organization or with another applicant, please reach out to the SBAN team

at sban@umd.edu. We would also encourage you to reach out directly to SBAN members or other organizations who you know are applying.

Where can I find a list of the SBAN member organizations?

A list of the SBAN member organizations is provided on the SBAN website at https://antidisplacement.org/our-network/member-organizations/.

What types of anti-displacement efforts are SBAN most interested in studying? Can I propose to study an anti-displacement strategy or tool that is not included in the [SBAN toolkit](https://antidisplacement.org)?

We are particularly interested in strategies that address commercial property and community ownership, commercial tenant protections, zoning, and form-based codes. Case studies may look at strategies that are not included in the SBAN toolkit. They may look at one or multiple strategies or tools. Regardless of the strategy, all case studies should explain how the work has helped to keep small businesses in place and the lessons that other organizations can learn to advance their anti-displacement work.

Do you only want case studies of success stories?

We understand that "success stories'' in anti-displacement work are rare and hard to define. We are seeking examples and narratives that help us understand how to build strategies that can advance ground-level work and policy in this arena. Studies of outcomes that are different from what an organization originally envisioned, as well as stories about challenges along the way, are welcome. These case studies should be accompanied by explanations of what may have been done differently and lessons learned. Applicants are also encouraged to explain and define their own measures of "success."

Can I propose to study anti-displacement efforts that may not lead directly or quickly to policy outcomes?

Yes. Just as success is hard to define, it is also sometimes difficult to see quick policy changes or outcomes in this work. We are looking for case studies that advance both policy and practice in this arena – studies that support organizations working on the ground with small businesses as well as policymakers and advocates.

Can case studies cover efforts to pilot anti-displacement tools and strategies? Or are you only looking for case studies that analyze longer-term efforts with policy results?

We are looking for cases that can inform organizations that are working to advance small business anti-displacement agendas. We are interested in learning what has worked and not worked, how, and why. Projects and ideas that have not yet begun are probably too new to offer many substantive lessons. However, we are not necessarily looking for projects that are complete. They may be in their early phases and not yet have produced policy changes.

What kinds of formats are acceptable for the case study final product? For example, could I produce a video?

The 15- to 20-page narrative format requested in the call is a requirement of all grantees. However, we also encourage other types of media and formats, including videos, as a supplement to grantees final project submissions. SBAN will work with all successful applicants to distribute their work in multiple formats to different audiences.

Can the grant money be used to compensate already employed staff?

Yes. Grant monies can be used to buy out a percentage of employees time to work on the project. Their percentage time and salary should be listed in the budget.

What kind of consultant support can grantees expect from SBAN experts?

Successful applicants will meet with an SBAN consultant during one kick-off webinar, two group webinars, and three individual sessions. The consultant's role is to support and advise grantees throughout the process. The consultant will facilitate learning among the teams and work to identify common challenges, solutions, and resources. SBAN will also work to enhance each grantees' capacity to conduct policy-relevant research, data collection and management, and analysis through individual consultation to identify grantee needs and challenges. This may include connecting you with data, research, or networks to advance your work. We will also provide limited copyediting and graphic design support for the final product. We understand

that the needs of each grantee will vary. SBAN staff will be available to answer any questions or concerns throughout the process and will work to ensure that your final product is distributed widely to multiple stakeholders.

Can I get feedback on my proposal prior to submission?

SBAN staff will be available to answer questions about the process and the proposed ideas. However, they will not directly review and comment on proposals until the formal review process.

If you have further questions or concerns, contact the SBAN Team at sban@umd.edu.