

## Community-Led Design Group Application

**Application Release Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

**Application Due Date: Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

Thank you for your interest in joining the Community-Led Design Group. In April 2021, Mayor Janey asked the Health and Human Services Cabinet (HHS), Boston Police Department (BPD), and Boston EMS to work on creating pilot programs to reimagine responses to mental health crises. Overall, the goals of the pilots are to increase mental health worker involvement and to decrease police involvement. Over the course of this effort, the City held ten listening sessions and two public meetings, and utilized a request for information to hear directly from the community. These engagements resulted in the development of three initiatives for pilot plans about improving mental health responses: (1) improving the co-response model, (2) introducing an alternative response, led by Boston-EMS and mental health workers, and (3) creating a community-led response.

The Community-Led Design Group will be charged with addressing the third initiative—creating a community-led response pilot. The group shall be composed of at least ten Boston residents with professional and/or lived experience with mental health issues who are committed to considering and creating a plan to pilot a community-led response to mental health crises. We aim to assemble a group of individuals from a variety of Boston neighborhoods, identities, and lived experiences. We will have translation services available for residents who do not speak English. You can request your preferred language in the application.

When selecting the Design Group members, we will be looking for dedicated community members who are willing to engage in this challenging process. Applicants cannot apply on behalf of an organization or entity. Community members are encouraged to reference their own lived experiences and how it shapes their desire to join the Design Group in their application.

### **Structure:**

The Community Led Design Group will meet for up to two hours, twice a month, from December 2021 - May 2022. Members are expected to actively participate in virtual or in-person meetings, based on COVID-19 precautions and restrictions. During facilitated meetings, the group will provide insight, feedback, react to ideas, and make suggestions that will lead to a pilot for a Community-Led response to mental health crises. Possible Design Group topics include but are not limited to the vision for a community-led response, mental health illness stigma, linguistically and culturally appropriate responses to mental health crises, and community member training. Outside of official meeting time,

group members are expected to dedicate 2 more hours to thoughtful reflection on the contents of the previous meeting, and to prepare ideas for the next one. Members may also be asked to co-lead or attend community listening sessions to garner community input. Each meeting should gradually work towards a final report detailing the recommended design for a pilot plan on a community-led mental health crisis response.

A monetary stipend of \$1,200 will be provided to each member in acknowledgment of the time and effort that goes into serving on the Design Group and to help offset any necessary childcare and transportation costs associated with their participation. Group members are expected to attend at least 9 of the 12 meetings. These stipends will be provided in three installments.

Chosen Design Group members will need to sign a Community-Led Design Group Agreement to Serve document, agreeing that you:

- Are a resident of the City of Boston
- Will attend at least 9 of the 12 Design Group meetings
- Will read the information sent to the group to prepare for meetings
- Will provide thoughtful feedback at meetings
- Will be open to learning and understanding the viewpoints of fellow group members
- Will participate and engage in a difficult process
- Will center the health and safety of all residents throughout the process
- Will represent only yourself and your lived experiences, and not an organization or entity

**Applications and Deadlines:**

To apply to be a member of the Community-Led Design Group, please complete the attached application. Please send your completed application to Krystal Garcia, at [krystal.garcia@boston.gov](mailto:krystal.garcia@boston.gov). If you have any questions regarding the Design Group or the application, please call or email Krystal at 617-635-3950 or [krystal.garcia@boston.gov](mailto:krystal.garcia@boston.gov). All applications must be completed and turned in by Wednesday, November 10, 2021 by 5:00 PM EST. We will call or email you to let you know that your application was received. Applicants may be contacted to arrange an in-person or Zoom interview. A final decision about who will be invited to be a Design Group member will be made by November 30, 2021. Thank you again for your interest in the Community-Led Design Group!

If you would like to submit your application in person, visit City Hall Room 806 and ask to leave the application for Krystal Garcia.

## Application Form

**All information in this application will be private and confidential. It will only be used for your Community-Led Design Group Application.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (First Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

What race/ethnicity do you identify with? (Select all that apply)

- a. Asian
- b. Black or African American
- c. Native American or Alaska Native
- d. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- e. White
- f. Hispanic or Latino
- g. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Which gender do you identify with most?

- a. Female
- b. Male
- c. Non-binary
- d. Prefer not to say
- e. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a disability?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

If yes, how would you describe your disability? Check all that apply.

- a. Deaf, or serious difficulty hearing
- b. Blind, or serious difficulty seeing (even wearing glasses)
- c. Difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition
- d. Serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs

- e. Difficulty dressing or bathing
- f. Difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition

We have translation services available. What is your preferred language?

- a. Arabic
- b. Cape Verdean Creole
- c. Haitian Creole
- d. Chinese
- e. English
- f. Spanish
- g. Vietnamese
- h. Portuguese
- i. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Boston Neighborhood and zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

If you provide mental health-related services for residents in Boston, what neighborhood(s) do you serve? \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Interest**

What motivates you to serve on the Community-Led Design Group? Why does improving mental health crisis response matter to you? What skills, assets, qualifications, and/or lived experience would you bring to the Design Group? If you have lived experience, how will it inform your participation? (less than 500 words)

Please attach your statement to the application.

**Thank you for your interest in serving on the Community-Led Design Group**

Please save your document as: CLDGApplication2021\_FIRSTNAME\_LASTNAME

Send your completed document to [krystal.garcia@boston.gov](mailto:krystal.garcia@boston.gov)

You can also ask any questions you may have at the same email address

## FAQs

### **Do I have to live in a specific neighborhood to participate?**

No, all Boston residents should feel free to apply regardless of which Boston neighborhood they live in.

### **I don't live in Boston, but I work in Boston and would like to participate. Can I still apply?**

While we appreciate your desire to serve on the Design Group, all members must currently live in the City of Boston.

### **Will translation services be provided for Design Group members that prefer to communicate in another language?**

Yes, translation services will be provided, but you have to notify us ahead of time. Make sure to indicate what language you are fluent in the application process.

### **Why are you providing a monetary stipend for participants?**

The City of Boston is deeply appreciative of the time and expertise community members will invest in serving on this Design Group. All selected members will receive a monetary stipend in acknowledgment of the time and effort that goes into serving in this group and to help offset any necessary childcare and transportation costs associated with their participation. Providing monetary stipends has been shown to:

- Help bring a broader range of voices into the work
- Demonstrates that we value community knowledge and participation
- Encourages greater consistency, responsibility, and accountability in participation

### **I don't have time to be part of the Design Group but would like to provide my thoughts on Community-led responses to mental health crises, how can I do that?**

The Community-Led Design Group will hold opportunities for additional community voices to be presented. Please look out for those opportunities in the coming months.