



# wellbeingcity award

**Application Guide 2018–2019**

**#WellbeingCity**





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## Outline

1. Introduction	1
2. About the Wellbeing City Award	2
Timeline	2
Categories	2
Who can apply?	3
Application process	4
Benefits to Laureate Cities	5
3. Criteria	6
Evaluation details	7-8
4. What is Urban Wellbeing?	9
Public Health	10
Community	10
Sustainable Environment	11
Economy & Opportunity	11

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## Introduction

Achieving wellbeing at the city-scale requires, above all, a commitment to collaborative problem solving and a belief in a holistic approach to improving the lives of residents. The Wellbeing City Award seeks to recognize cities whose innovative policies and programs demonstrate active support for strong communities, robust efforts in public health, the promotion of a healthy and just local economy, and a thriving natural environment.

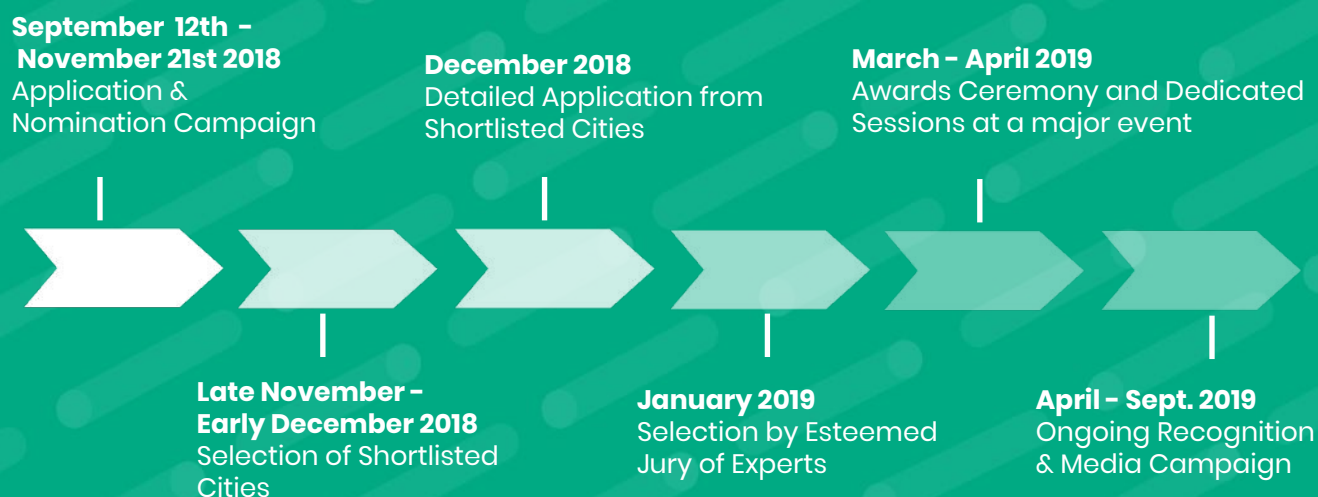
The following document guides prospective Wellbeing Cities through the application process. This Application Guide details the timeline, the evaluation criteria, and illustrates examples of initiatives that demonstrate a commitment to urban wellbeing.

We encourage all applicants to read this document before filling out the application or nomination form. Further questions regarding applications can be addressed to [wellbeing@newcities.org](mailto:wellbeing@newcities.org).



# 1. About the Wellbeing City Award

## Timeline



## Award Categories

In order to reflect the many facets of the notion of urban wellbeing, the Award comprises of four categories:

- » Public Health
- » Sustainable Environment
- » Community
- » Economy & Opportunity

In addition to the winners of each category, one overall winner, the **Wellbeing City 2019**, will be chosen by the Jury across all finalists.

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## Who can apply?

We welcome applications from cities that have initiated innovative programs which have demonstrated a transformative impact on the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Strategies must be city-led and carried forward by the City Mayor or appointed authority within the city. They can be implemented in partnership with other local organizations, however, the application can only be submitted by a representative of the City.

Applicants to the Wellbeing City Award must present one or several initiative(s) that:

- » have reached or are close to reaching their outlined objectives of urban wellbeing;
- » are financially sustainable;
- » have a clear plan for future development and upcoming objectives;

Successful cities will have met the above conditions, reflected on the specific needs of their city, and demonstrated a clear commitment to further improving wellbeing for all citizens.

The Wellbeing City Award welcomes applications from cities of all sizes.





## Award Timeline

### >> September 12th

Beginning of Application  
and Nomination Process

### >> October 15th

Deadline for Nominations

### >> November 21st

Deadline for Applications

### >> December 2018

Selection of Shortlisted  
Cities

### >> December 2018 – Mid January 2019

Detailed Application  
from Shortlisted Cities

### >> January 2019

Selection of Laureates by  
Jury of Experts

### >> April 2019

Formal Announcement  
and Award Ceremony

## Application Process

**Applications** can only be submitted by a representative of your city under the direction and approval of a senior staff member.

**Nominations** can be submitted by any non-municipal actor wishing to put forward a city that is promoting wellbeing. NewCities will then invite nominated cities to submit an application.

*Applications and Nomination forms are accessible from the NewCities [website](#).*

*NewCities will not accept any paper applications. If for any reason you cannot submit a digital application, please contact [wellbeing@newcities.org](mailto:wellbeing@newcities.org).*

NewCities and the partners of the Wellbeing City Award will jointly review the applications and select the finalists.

All finalists will be invited to submit a detailed application and to answer a few questions on the initiatives submitted.

The second round of applications from finalist cities will be reviewed by a Jury and Laureates will be selected.

The Award Ceremony will take place at a major urban innovation event. *Date and location TBC.*

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## Benefits to Laureate Cities

Laureate cities will have a chance to:

- » **showcase their city's most inspiring initiatives** on a global stage;
- » **partake in an extensive global media campaign** spearheaded by NewCities in the following year;
- » **inspire and be inspired** by what others are doing around the world. NewCities will produce a report compiling case studies from the finalist cities and sharing best practices, lessons learnt and replicable initiatives;
- » **access NewCities' extensive network of urban leaders worldwide**, and be invited to **speak at relevant urban innovation events** to be organized by NewCities and partners.
- » **be at the heart of a global conversation on a key urban issue**. Participation in the Award will spark enriching discussions within and across the cities.

The overall winner will benefit from all of the above, as well as:

- » be recognized as the **Wellbeing City 2019**.
- » present its initiatives and leadership during the **Wellbeing City Award Ceremony** in the spring of 2019.
- » present its initiatives and leadership during the **Singapore OpenGov Leadership Forum 2019**.

In addition, the application process is greatly valuable in itself. Applicants will be guided by prompts and questions that provide a framework to reflect on the complex notion of wellbeing. Applying to the award provides a unique self-audit opportunity for your community.



## 2. Criteria

The initiatives put forward by applicant cities will be evaluated across the following criteria:

### >> **Achieved Level of Success**

We are looking for cities that demonstrate evidence of tangible outcomes such as KPIs, measurements and feedback from key partners.

We value insights on the observed results of the initiative(s) and comments on how these measure up with cities' expectations. We expect applicant cities to reflect on the challenges that have or may affect the success of their initiatives.

### >> **Inclusion of Stakeholders**

We expect applicant cities to demonstrate how they included local stakeholders (organizations, citizens, small businesses, etc.) throughout the design and implementation of the presented initiative(s).

### >> **Demonstration of Leadership**

We encourage cities to describe how they define urban wellbeing, and how they came to develop this particular view. A strong, city-wide framework and strategy for urban wellbeing should be demonstrated.

### >> **Replicability and Inspiration for Others**

The initiatives presented by applicant cities should be scalable and replicable within reasonable terms in similar contexts.

### >> **Use of Innovative Methods**

The Wellbeing City Award values creativity in how cities address urban wellbeing. Initiatives will be evaluated for their originality and ingenuity in addressing a specific wellbeing challenge.

These criteria apply at the first **and** second round of applications.

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## Evaluation details

	A	B	C
<b>Achieved Level of Success</b>	<p>Short, medium and long-term strategy clearly defined.</p> <p>Significant results, in relation to the resources available.</p> <p>Observable co-benefits in other areas of wellbeing.</p> <p>Results supported by evidence in the form of data points, testimonies and feedback (quantitative or qualitative evidence)</p> <p>Measurement tools to monitor results and impact.</p>	<p>Clearly stated objectives.</p> <p>Some objectives achieved or close to being met.</p> <p>Results supported by evidence in the form of data points, testimonies and feedback, quantitative or qualitative evidence.</p>	<p>Some objectives identified, no clear strategy.</p> <p>Little to no evidence to support impact evaluation.</p> <p>Lack of measured results or tools in place to determine success.</p>
<b>Inclusion of Stakeholders</b>	<p>Extensive evidence of successful stakeholder involvement (e.g. cross-sector partnership, consultations, etc.).</p> <p>Clearly outlined strategy to actively engage local stakeholders at all stages of implementation.</p> <p>Documented stakeholders engagement activities.</p> <p>Definition of urban wellbeing is inclusive and reflects diversity of needs, notably of minorities.</p>	<p>Some evidence of stakeholder involvement (e.g. cross-sector partnership, consultations, etc.).</p> <p>Some documentation of stakeholders engagement activities.</p> <p>Definition of urban wellbeing is inclusive and reflects diversity of needs.</p>	<p>Little to no collaboration with other actors.</p>

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## Evaluation details (cont.)

	A	B	C
<b>Demonstration of Leadership</b>	<p>Evidence of a long-lasting commitment to all areas of wellbeing.</p> <p>Clearly articulated, holistic and exhaustive strategy around wellbeing at the city scale.</p>	<p>Evidence of some reflection and strategy on urban wellbeing.</p> <p>Some integration of activities into a larger strategy around urban wellbeing.</p>	<p>No clear or comprehensive reflection on wellbeing of their residents.</p> <p>Stand-alone initiative, lack of integration into a wider strategy.</p>
<b>Replicability &amp; Inspiration for Others</b>	<p>Comprehensive plans for scaling the initiative.</p> <p>Other cities have already replicated the initiative with success.</p> <p>Demonstrated financial sustainability.</p>	<p>Evidence of participation in specific activities to share experience and best practices with other cities.</p> <p>Initial reflection on replicability and scalability.</p>	<p>No evidence of replicability and scalability.</p> <p>No actions taken (or plan) to share experience and best practices with other cities.</p>
<b>Use of Innovative Methods</b>	<p>Demonstrated unique vision of urban wellbeing Innovative methods put to use in the implementation.</p> <p>Clear understanding of the innovative nature has been demonstrated.</p>	<p>New standards for urban wellbeing have been put to use.</p> <p>Initiative is inspired from another model, but has been adapted to the local context and reappropriated by the actors involved.</p>	<p>No demonstrated new understanding of the role of the city in promoting wellbeing.</p> <p>No context-based reflection on wellbeing.</p>

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### 3. What is Urban Wellbeing?

The following toolkit was developed by the NewCities team to provide **indicative examples of initiatives** relevant to wellbeing in cities. The next pages should in no way be considered a definitive take on urban wellbeing, but rather should inspire cities to self-reflect on their definition of wellbeing and on relevant action areas that are applicable to their specific context.

We have identified **four categories** across which wellbeing can be improved.

#### Categories of Wellbeing

- » [Public Health](#)
- » [Community](#)
- » [Sustainable Environment](#)
- » [Economy & Opportunity](#)

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## Public Health

Cities host a high concentration of public health issues, increasing daily with rapid urbanization. How are cities tackling health issues that plague their residents, and creating resilience against health risks that may arise in the future? Examples of activities that address public health issues may include:

- » Proactive prevention of diseases
- » Providing better mental health services
- » Encouraging an active lifestyle
- » Enhancing food security
- » Improving access to health services
- » Controlling air and water quality
- » Promote a healthy work/life balance
- » Ensure accessibility of health services for the elderly
- » Guaranteeing access to health services in challenging situations

## Community

We often find wellbeing and happiness within the human connections and social capital forged in the streets and diverse spaces of our cities. Through urban design, policy, and programming that strengthens communities, promotes inclusivity, and allows for increased connectedness, cities can directly foster wellbeing in everyday life. Examples of activities that promote community-based wellbeing may include:

- » Investing in safe walking and biking networks
- » Accessibility through inclusive and universal design
- » Promoting human interactions in the public space
- » Encouraging civic participation and engagement
- » Promoting safety
- » Strengthening local culture and institutions
- » Fostering social support networks for the vulnerable
- » Equality
- » Family-friendly resources (eg. daycare, etc.)

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## Sustainable Environment

A commitment to creating lasting, healthy and resilient environments within our cities is important to achieving wellbeing. Examples of activities that promote a sustainable natural and built environment include:

- » Encourage sustainable lifestyles
- » Environmentally friendly construction & retrofitting
- » Expansion and improvement of green spaces
- » Equitable access to natural environment
- » Strengthening climate justice
- » Mitigating noise and light pollution
- » Community climate planning
- » Preservation of arable land
- » Disaster risk reduction

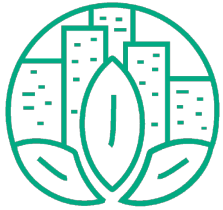
## Economy & Opportunity

Cities must ensure access to opportunity, healthy work-life balance, and local skills and capacity building in order to grow inclusively and convert their economic success into wellbeing for all. Examples of activities that address economic and opportunity challenges include:

- » Addressing 'dual burdens of poverty'
- » Inclusive planning & affordable housing
- » Accessibility of mobility network
- » Accessible and flexible workspaces
- » Connecting the workforce with the labour market
- » Promote diversity in the workforce
- » Mitigate income inequality
- » Support entrepreneurship and local businesses
- » Retraining & education programs
- » Using smart city tools to foster local growth

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For more information, contact: [wellbeing@newcities.org](mailto:wellbeing@newcities.org)

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