

# City Innovation Snapshot | Aurora, IL, United States

## Overview

- Mayor: Richard C. Irvin
- Lead staff on innovation: Adrienne Holloway
- Population of municipality: 201,110 (2016)
- Innovation/open data website: [www.aurora-il.org/1810/Innovation-Department](http://www.aurora-il.org/1810/Innovation-Department)

## Spotlight on Aurora | Efforts to improve data use

Aurora focuses on data identification and process review to understand where barriers exist, from a technology perspective. Aurora also engages in activities that will assist in achieving buy-in from stakeholders in data sharing and leveraging.

## Vision and approach to innovation capacity

### The city's innovation strategy

Along with 56% of cities surveyed, Aurora does not have an **explicit innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with the following terms:

Human-centred design

Resident engagement

### Approaches to innovation capacity

Similar to 40% of cities surveyed, Aurora approaches innovation capacity both from a **holistic/macro level**, as well as in **specific policy areas**.

The **top two priority policy areas** for the city's innovation work include:

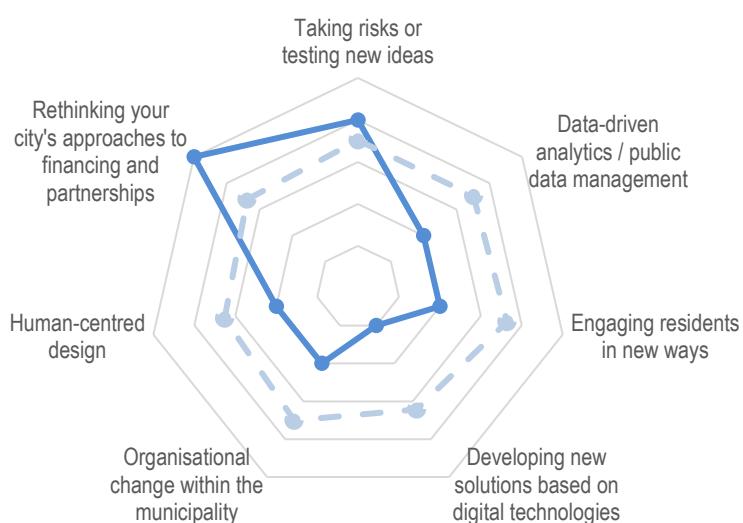
Economic development

Education

### Most common innovation activities

Aurora's most common innovation activity is **rethinking the city's approach to financing and partnerships**. Its innovation activities also often include **taking risks and testing new ideas**.

—●— Aurora    —○— Average of 89 cities



## Funding for innovation capacity

### Funding to support innovation capacity

Along with 23% of cities surveyed, Aurora does not have dedicated funding to support innovation capacity.

Aurora's Innovation and Core Services Department receives an annual budget allocation to support staffing and operational expenses. There is not a budget line item to support innovation projects.

### Types of activities being funded

Aurora does not have dedicated funding to support innovation capacity.

Among all the cities surveyed, **launching or sustaining a project**, and **generating ideas & brainstorming** are the two most commonly funded activities.

Launching or sustaining a project

Idea generation & brainstorming

Investing in digital systems

Investing in physical infrastructure

Paying for services

## Organisational structure & staffing



As an independent department, Aurora's dedicated team for innovation consists of **2 staff**. The team is expected to have 1 additional staff person in 2019.

Staff skills and profiles include:

- ✓ Project manager
- ✓ Sociologist / Political scientist
- ✓ Community engagement staff

## Partnerships for innovation & data



**Aurora** has developed partnerships to promote its innovation capacity with **other public agencies, private firms, not-for-profit organisations, and city residents/resident associations**.

## Measuring outcomes

Policy areas that **benefit from sufficient data**, or **lack sufficient data**, to support innovation capacity in the city:



NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey.

Innovation is **helping the city to**:

- ✓ Improve internal government operations
- ✓ Anticipate and manage future challenges
- ✓ Simplify administrative procedures for firms and residents

The most **critical success factors** in supporting the city's innovation work:

- ✓ Dedicated funding
- ✓ Dedicated innovation team
- ✓ Leadership from Mayor
- ✓ Engagement with partners
- ✓ Support from outside city administration