

City Innovation Snapshot | Cincinnati, United States

Overview

- ▶ Mayor: John Cranley
- ▶ Lead staff on innovation: Nicollette Staton
- ▶ Population of municipality: 301,301 (2017)
- ▶ Innovation/open data website: <https://data.cincinnati-oh.gov/>
<https://insights.cincinnati-oh.gov>

Spotlight on Cincinnati | Urban Innovation Lab

Cincinnati's innovation strategy has moved away from a "lean six sigma"/anti-tech model to more **technology-oriented model** as technology is often a component of the solution. The city's innovation strategy focuses on being realistic about the role of technology in process enhancement/improvement while still ensuring that tech solutions are human-centric (and process-appropriate).

Vision and approach to innovation capacity

The city's innovation strategy

Along with 44% of cities surveyed, Cincinnati has an **explicit innovation strategy**.

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

Data analytics

Foresight
Scenario planning

Approaches to innovation capacity

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

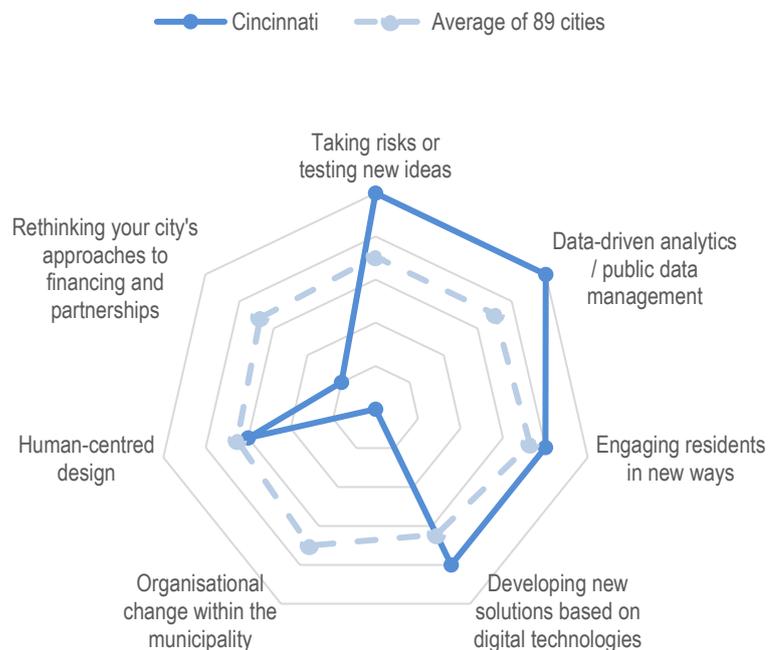
The **top two priority policy areas** for the city's innovation work include:

Policing and
law enforcement

Blight

Most common innovation activities

Cincinnati's most common innovation activities are **taking risks and testing new ideas** and **promoting data-driven analytics**. Its innovation activities also include **engaging residents in new ways** and **developing new solutions based on digital technologies**.



Funding for innovation capacity

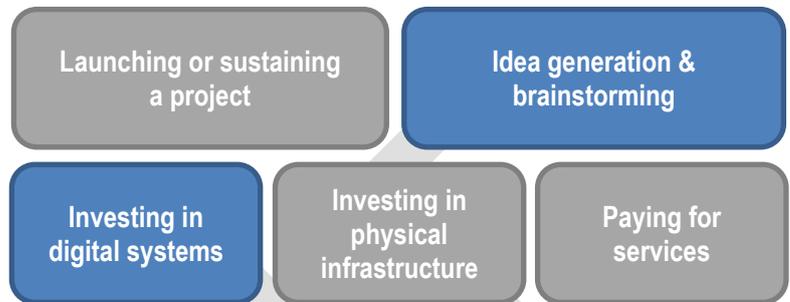
Funding to support innovation capacity

Like 77% of cities surveyed, Cincinnati has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which originates from the following sources:

- ✓ **Municipal budget**
(city council approved funds/operating budget)

Types of activities being funded

Cincinnati's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards **generating ideas & brainstorming**, which is one of the two most commonly funded activities among all cities surveyed. Cincinnati also **invests in digital systems**.



Organisational structure & staffing



Situated in the City Manager's office, Cincinnati's dedicated team for innovation consists of **6 staff**.

Staff skills and profiles include:

- ✓ **Project manager**
- ✓ **Data scientist**
- ✓ **Designer**

Partnerships for innovation & data



Cincinnati has developed partnerships to promote its innovation capacity with **other public agencies**.

To improve data use, the city has also developed **data partnerships with other cities**.

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**
- ✓ **Improve service delivery**
- ✓ **Simplify administrative procedures for firms and residents**

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

- ✓ **Dedicated funding**
- ✓ **Focus on measurement**
- ✓ **Dedicated innovation team**