City Innovation Snapshot | Louisville, United States

Overview
► Mayor: Greg Fischer
► Lead staff on innovation: Grace Simrall
► Population of municipality: 616,261 (2016)
► Innovation/open data website: https://data.louisvilleky.gov/

Spotlight on Louisville | Breakthrough innovation

Louisville's innovation strategy aims to co-create breakthroughs for urgent challenges through an equity lens. The city has leveraged the existing data in the city's stat program, LouieStat, and in their open data portal. A Data Governance Committee comprised of representatives from all agencies has been created to work on breakthrough innovations using data. Furthermore, Louisville has developed the Open Government Coalition to help other cities take advantage of private sector data sharing agreements and deploy pre-built solutions to make the data actionable.

Vision and approach to innovation capacity

The city's innovation strategy

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

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

Big picture re-thinking

Technological innovation

Approaches to innovation capacity

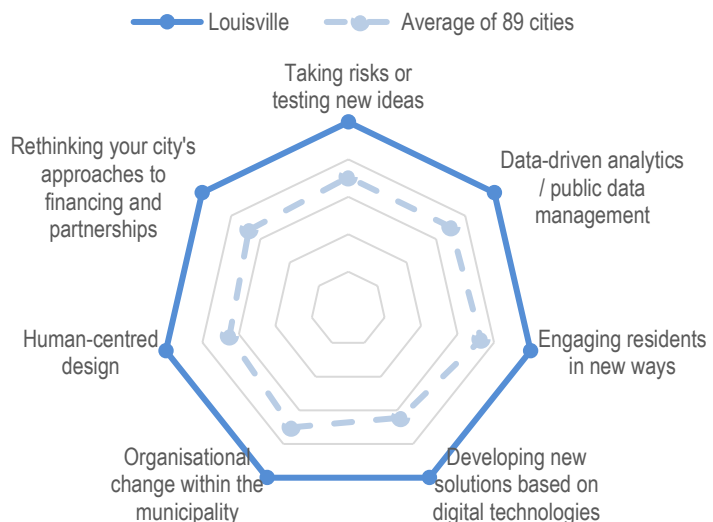Similar to 24% of cities surveyed, Louisville approaches innovation from a **holistic/macro level**.

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

Transport / mobility

Public Safety

Most common innovation activities

Louisville's innovation activity includes various kinds of activities including **taking risks and testing new ideas; facilitating data-driven analytics; engaging residents in new ways; developing new solutions based on digital technologies; facilitating organisational change within the municipal administration; human-centred design;** and **rethinking the city's approach to financing and partnerships**.

Radar chart comparing Louisville with Average of 89 cities across: Taking risks or testing new ideas; Data-driven analytics / public data management; Engaging residents in new ways; Developing new solutions based on digital technologies; Organisational change within the municipality; Human-centred design; Rethinking your city's approaches to financing and partnerships.
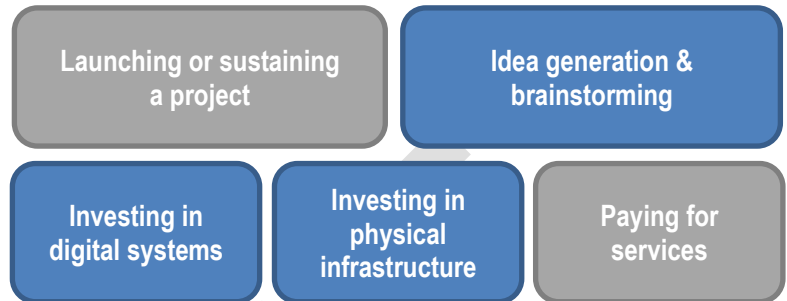
Funding for innovation capacity

Funding to support innovation capacity

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

- ✓ **Municipal budget**
  (city council approved funds/operating budget)
- ✓ **External funding**
  (private/philanthropy/non-profit)

Types of activities being funded

Louisville'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. Louisville also **invests in digital systems and physical infrastructure**.

Launching or sustaining a project	Idea generation & brainstorming

Investing in digital systems	Investing in physical infrastructure	Paying for services

Organisational structure & staffing

Louisville's dedicated team for innovation consists of **5 staff** in the Office of Civic Innovation.

Staff skills and profiles include:
- ✓ **Data scientist**
- ✓ **Engineer**
- ✓ **Project manager**
- ✓ **Community engagement staff**

Partnerships for innovation & data

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

To improve data use, the city has also developed **data partnerships with the private sector, academia, think tanks, and philanthropy** to collect and analyse data, as well as **with other cities.**

Measuring outcomes

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

Transport / mobility	Economic development	Housing & built environment	Policing & law enforcement	Health
Water	Waste and sewage	Labour markets & skills	Environment & climate change	Education
Culture	Social inclusion, equity	Public works	Tourism	Digital governance

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

Innovation is **helping the city** to:

- ✓ **Anticipate and manage future challenges**
- ✓ **Improve resident outcomes**
- ✓ **Engage residents and other stakeholders**

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

- ✓ **Focus on measurement**
- ✓ **Dedicated innovation team**
- ✓ **Leadership from Mayor**
- ✓ **Culture of innovation in city**
- ✓ **Support from outside city administration**