City Innovation Snapshot | Minneapolis, United States

Overview
► Mayor: Jacob Frey
► Lead staff on innovation:
Brian K. Smith
► Population of municipality:
422,331 (2017)
► Innovation/open data website:
www.minneapolismn.gov/opendata/

Vision and approach to innovation capacity

The city's innovation strategy

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

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

Experimentation

Big picture re-thinking

Approaches to innovation capacity

Similar to over one-third of cities surveyed, Minneapolis approaches innovation capacity in **specific policy areas**.
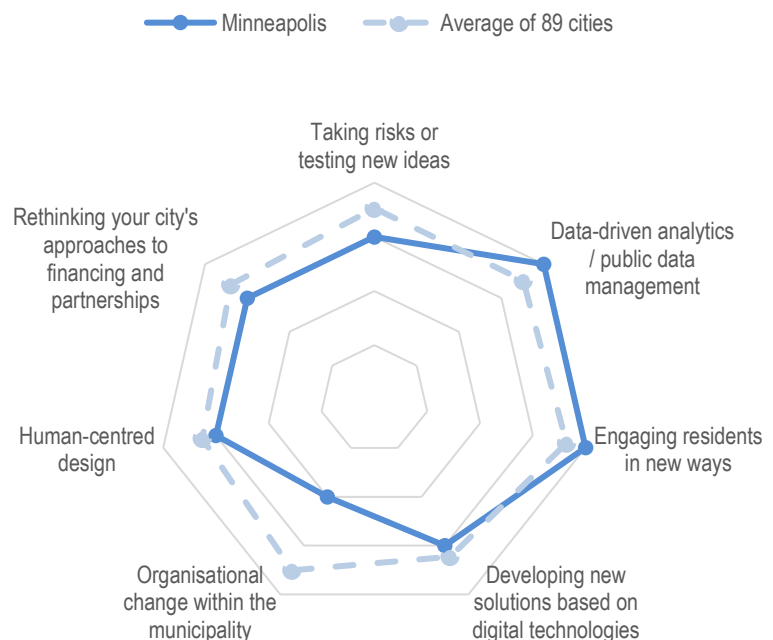
The **top two priority policy areas** for the city's innovation work include:

Economic development

Social inclusion and equity

Most common innovation activities

Minneapolis's most common innovation activities are **promoting data-driven analytics** and **engaging residents in new ways**.

Radar chart legend: Minneapolis — Average of 89 cities

Axes: 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
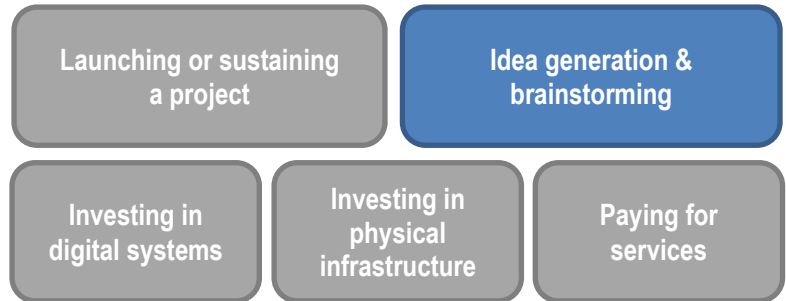
Funding for innovation capacity

Funding to support innovation capacity

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

- ✓ **Municipal budget**
  (operating budget)

Types of activities being funded

Minneapolis'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.

Launching or sustaining a project	Idea generation & brainstorming

Investing in digital systems	Investing in physical infrastructure	Paying for services

Organisational structure & staffing

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

Staff skills and profiles include:
- ✓ **Project manager**
- ✓ **Designer**
- ✓ **Communication officer**
- ✓ **Community engagement staff**

Partnerships for innovation & data

Minneapolis's innovation team has developed **both internal and external partnerships** in all of their work.

To improve data use, the city has also developed **data partnerships with academia and think tanks** to collect and analyse data.

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:

- ✓ **Improve service delivery**
- ✓ **Engage with residents and other stakeholders**
- ✓ **Improve resident outcomes**

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

- ✓ **Dedicated funding**
- ✓ **Focus on measurement**
- ✓ **Dedicated innovation team**
- ✓ **Human resource support**
- ✓ **Leadership from Mayor**
- ✓ **Culture of innovation in city**
- ✓ **Engagement with partners**
- ✓ **Support from outside city administration**