



City Innovation Snapshot MONTGOMERY, Alabama, USA

Overview

- ▶ **Mayor:** Steven L Reed
- ▶ **Term:** 2019-2023
- ▶ **Innovation Lead:** Marcus Holt
- ▶ **Population size:** 205 501 (2010)
- ▶ **Innovation / open data website:**
<http://data.montgomeryal.gov>

What is the organisational structure?

Montgomery has an innovation-related task group with delegates from different departments. The city's IT Director leads a cross-departmental team consisting of **10 staff**.

Staff skills and profiles include:

- Project Manager
- Data Scientist
- Strategic Communications / Marketing
- Designer
- Community Engagement



Spotlight

Montgomery is partnering with community members like the Maxwell Air Force Base to leverage local expertise with the aim of enhancing the city's innovation capacity and developing the tech sector workforce. The city has also designed a programme to identify and prevent blighted and abandoned property through the analysis of data pulled from utility firms and housing codes. Innovation goals set by the Mayor, include appointing a Chief Innovation Officer and establishing consistent funding for innovative projects.

What is the city's innovation vision?

Like 50% of cities surveyed, Montgomery has no **formal innovation strategy** (but Mayor Reed has made it a priority for his administration).

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with:

- **Technological innovation**
- **Resident Engagement**

What is the city's innovation approach?

Similar to more than half of cities surveyed, Montgomery approaches innovation capacity **both from a holistic / macro level and in specific policy areas**.

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

Digital
Governance

Equitable
Neighbourhoods

What innovation partnerships exist?

Montgomery has developed partnerships to **promote 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 and think tanks, to collect and analyse data, as well as with other cities.



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What funding is available?

Like 81% of cities surveyed, Montgomery has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which comes from the following sources:

- **Municipal budget** (city council approved funds / operating budget)
- **External (non-public) funding** (private / philanthropic or non-profit resources)
- **Innovative financing tools**
- **Non-financial: other in-kind contributions**

Montgomery's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards **training staff and building capacity, investing in digital systems and physical infrastructure, and paying for third-party services.**



How is innovation helping the city?

- ✓ **Gaining efficiency within the public sector**
- ✓ **Improving internal government operations**
- ✓ **Improving service delivery**

The most critical success factors in supporting the city's innovation work are **dedicated funding, a focus on metrics, a dedicated innovation team, a culture of innovation within the municipal administration, engagement with partners, support from the broader community and leadership from the Mayor.**



How is data used?

Data plays a **significant role** in decision-making and innovation efforts in Montgomery. The city currently **uses data to align its budget process with its strategic priorities.**

Montgomery **maintains a comprehensive data inventory** to make data more accessible, **publishes open data online** and is exploring better ways to **share best-use and how-to guidelines** to help residents access and use city data.



How are outcomes measured?

Policy areas **with sufficient data** or **without sufficient data** to support innovation capacity in the city.

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|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Transport / Mobility | Economic Development | Housing | Policing and Law Enforcement | Health |
| Government Finance | Waste and Sewage | Labour Market and Skills | Environment and Climate Change | Education |
| Culture | Social Inclusion, Equity | Public Works | Tourism | Digital Governance |