2024-2025
Social Purpose Real Estate Programs Frequently Asked Questions

What is Social Purpose Real Estate (SPRE)?

Social Purpose Real Estate is a new term used in the Planning and Development sector to describe projects developed to deliver social value. This includes affordable housing, transitional housing, shelters, childcare, community spaces, cultural spaces, and any combination of these uses (I.e. Creative Mixed-Use).

What's the difference between the Organizational Readiness & Accelerator program?

The Organizational Readiness Program is a 6-week (1.5 hours online per week) program for organizations interested in assessing their "readiness" and capacity to develop a social purpose real estate project.

The Accelerator Program is a 6-month program (2-hour online sessions every two weeks) for organizations ready to start workshopping their project details, with the goal to pitch the project to potential partners & investors by the end of the program.

What are the program deadlines?

The deadlines for the upcoming programs are:

- Organizational Readiness Program application deadline: Apply starting August 12. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until capacity is reached, so we encourage you to apply early.
- Accelerator Program application deadline: **October 29, 2024**

Are applications open now?

Applications for both programs will be accepted starting on August 12, 2024! A PDF with the questions for both applications can also be found on each page to prepare your responses.

https://infrastructureinstitute.ca/spre-accelerator/

Is the Organizational Readiness program a pre-requisite for the Accelerator?

Nope!

While it is not a requirement, we do recommend completing the Organizational Readiness program before the Accelerator Program to confirm that your team is ready to move forward with a project. We understand that some organizations might not need to complete the Organizational Readiness program if they have already been working on capacity-building exercises internally in preparation for a development project. If your organization is interested in applying for the Accelerator and feels confident in your team's ability to jump right into the program, that's great!

Are organizations that complete the Organizational Readiness program required to apply for the Accelerator?

Nope!

The Organizational Readiness program is designed to guide groups through an assessment of their readiness to develop a project. By the end of the program each group will have completed a checklist of questions to conduct this assessment, and a clear sense of what needs to be done to get started.

Is it a requirement for organizations to have a confirmed project site for both programs?

It is not!

For the **Organizational Readiness program**, organizations are not required to have a site or confirmed concept. The only requirement is that you are able to commit to the full 6-week program and have an interest in discussing potential projects with your team.

For the **Accelerator program**, organizations are not required to have a confirmed project site, however we will be prioritizing organizations that either have a confirmed site or project partners for the project to be worked on through the program (i.e. a site or confirmed partnership with a developer or other organizations with a site).

What kinds of projects are eligible for these programs? Are only housing-focused projects eligible?

Any projects being developed by mission-driven organizations to deliver social value are eligible for these programs. In response to the housing crisis facing many cities across the province many organizations participating in the first cohorts of these programs ended up including housing in their concepts, however this is not a requirement.

Projects such as childcare centres, arts spaces, community centres and cultural spaces are also eligible on their own.

Can you give examples of projects in development?

A full list of projects from the first cohort of the program can be found on our website [LINK]

How are project details kept confidential throughout both programs?

Organizations participating in both programs are not required to share any confidential information publicly. Organizations participating in the Accelerator will be required to sign a program & confidentiality agreement at the onset of the program to acknowledge their responsibility to not share project details from other organizations beyond the program space.

Materials developed in collaboration with our resident Planner, Architect, and Designer will be confidential and it is up to each organization to decide which details (if any) that they would like to share with other members of the program.

Who can I contact with questions?

You are encouraged to get in touch with Raisa Masud, Program Officer at the Infrastructure Institute any time to discuss your project. Raisa.Masud@mail.utoronto.ca.