



## Ford C3 Building Sustainable Communities 2025 - Cycle 11

Presented by



Enactus is proud to partner with the Ford Philanthropy for the Ford C3 Building Sustainable Communities Project Partnership 2025, Cycle 11. Through the Ford C3 project, Enactus, with support from the Ford Philanthropy, challenges Enactus teams in **Australia, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South Africa and the United Kingdom** to use entrepreneurial action to address an urgent, unmet social need or problem in the local community. The Enactus teams should design projects that are innovative, creative and unique and that help the community to become a more sustainable place to work and live.

### Program Overview

The purpose of Ford C3 is to challenge colleges and universities to partner with their local communities to design innovative, student-led projects that address critical community needs. The overarching theme of the Ford C3 is “Building Sustainable Communities.” Enactus teams’ projects will include the following elements:

- Create an innovative approach to building sustainable communities, changing the way people move through smart mobility, or driving social mobility
- Involve students in a leadership role
- Address an urgent and unmet community need in a tangible way
- Involve a community-based organization as a partner
- Generate and document measurable outputs and outcomes to demonstrate how the project improves livelihoods

All templates needed for this program and application process can be found [here](#).

### General Program Timeline

This is the general program timeline. Please contact your Country Office for information about specific dates in your country.

Action	Timeline
Submission of teams’ applications	February-April 2025
Announcement of Grant recipients	February-July 2025



Action	Timeline
Teams complete projects	February-November 2025
Grant recipients recognized at National Competitions	April-July 2025
Teams submit final impact report	30 November 2025 by 18:00 UTC

### Eligibility

All enrolled Enactus teams in the participating countries with projects meeting the program goals and reporting requirements listed below are eligible to apply for a 2025, Cycle 11 Ford C3 Project Partnership grant. The project submitted must have outcomes and impact between the following dates: **1 December 2024 – 30 November 2025**

Each Enactus team may apply for only one grant. While teams may have many good ideas, please prioritize your needs and submit only one Application. It is recommended that teams select the project that is most clearly and strongly compatible with the purpose and requirements stated in the Program Overview.

### Application and Judging Criteria

Interested Enactus teams from the participating countries can apply using this [link](#).

Winning projects will receive a grant to further their project and impact. Application forms will be judged on the following criteria:

- How well does the team create an innovative approach to building sustainable communities, changing the way people move through smart mobility, or driving social mobility?
- How well does the team’s plan involve students in a leadership role?
- How well does the team’s plan tangibly address an urgent and unmet community need?
- How effectively has the team identified measurable outputs and outcomes to demonstrate the success of the project?
- How well does the team’s plan use entrepreneurial action to empower others to improve their livelihoods?

### Grants

Selected teams will be awarded grant money to empower communities through their Ford C3 Building Sustainable Communities projects. Please contact your Country Office to learn more about the number of grants available in your country, associated award amounts, and the timeline in which the grants will be awarded.

### Final Impact Report

Teams that receive a grant are required to submit a Final Impact Report to detail the results of the project, including measurable outputs and outcomes. The final report is due on **30 November 2025 by 18:00 UTC**. The submission link will be provided in late October 2025.

### Program Guidelines



The Ford C3 Building Sustainable Communities Project Partnership mobilizes Enactus teams to empower communities by addressing a critical community need. Enactus teams should design and develop programs and initiatives that address critical community needs in new ways, with a focus on helping the community become a more sustainable place to work and live. The term “Sustainable Communities” is not meant to be restricted to environmental concerns. Instead, it is used to describe healthy, livable communities that are poised to thrive in a global economy. Teams are strongly encouraged to work on local projects in their community. Teams may submit projects located outside of their country, but local community projects are preferred. Enactus teams’ Ford C3 Building Sustainable Communities Project Partnership projects will include the following elements to create a tangible impact:

*1- Create an innovative approach to “Building Sustainable Communities through: creating mobility-solutions to community challenges; addressing access to essential services (e.g. food, health care); providing young people with critical future-of-work skills; applying technology to address community issues.*

- Ford C3 uses the term Sustainable Communities in a very broad way. Ford Philanthropy is looking for Enactus teams to create interesting, unique, and ingenious approaches to defining this term, the more creative the better.
- Potential areas of focus could include (but are not limited to):
  - *Changing the Way People Move through Smart Mobility:* How can we design and implement affordable, clean, and safe transportation systems for the 21st Century? How can we make lives better by the way we move?
    - Ideas may address creating ride-share apps, replacing old models of transportation, developing autonomous vehicles, and using data science and analytics to anticipate customer wants and needs.
  - *Driving Social Mobility:* What is a tool or project that can be developed for individuals, households, or people to move within the layers of social strata?
    - Ideas may address tools or methods for improving economic empowerment, such as engaging youth to participate in STEAM fields/activities, helping first-generation college students succeed in school, teaching food sustainability and urban gardening to an economically challenged community, and increasing access to housing and educational opportunities.
  - *Education and Training:* In an increasingly global economy, human capital is perhaps the most important ingredient to a community’s ability to survive and thrive.
  - *Safety:* What do we mean when we refer to “safe communities”? How has this definition changed with the advent of the internet and other technologies?
  - *Economic Development*
  - *Sustainable Urban Design*
  - *Environmental sustainability:* Clean water and air are critical to the overall health and well-being of a community. How can members of a community (both individuals and organizations) learn to become more environmentally conscious and sustainable?
    - Ideas may address alternative energy, and creative approaches to the conservation, or use, of water.
  - *Student volunteer programs that partner with a local nonprofit to address a community need.*

The above areas of focus might be more specific at country level. Please contact your Country Office to learn more about that.



### *2- Involve students in a leadership role*

University students must be involved in a leadership role in the project, and all aspects of the project from design to implementation. Successful Applications will demonstrate this involvement in some detail.

### *3- Address an urgent and unmet community need in a tangible way*

Ford C3 is not looking for research studies or reports. Successful Applications will describe a project that touches the community in meaningful ways and makes a difference on a topic of real importance to the local community. While research/study is part of a successful needs assessment, meaningful and demonstrable action with a tangible output/outcome is required.

### *4- Involve a community-based organization as a partner*

Winning applications will demonstrate an active and meaningful partnership with a local community-based organization. The term “community-based organization” is not used as a legal term here, but rather to describe any organization that plays a role in the life of the local community (e.g., schools, social service agencies, businesses, and government entities).

### *5- Generate and document measurable outputs and outcomes to demonstrate the success of the project*

Ford C3 is interested in not just the final impact of the project, but also the outputs and outcomes realized along the way. You may refer to the [Enactus Competition documents](#) to learn more about impact definitions and Enactus project requirements.

### *6- Refine Future of Work Skills for the Participating Students*

As Enactus teams are student-led, with assistance from a faculty advisor and local Business Advisory Board, projects will have significant student input, involvement, and leadership from beginning to end, with a distinctive student perspective on what it means to have a sustainable community while they themselves are also increasing their future-of-work skills such as project management, collaboration, empathy and more.

## **Media Coverage**

Participating teams should execute media outreach (e.g., press release, web, local television, print, etc.) to promote their project in partnership with Ford Philanthropy. Media outreach is a great opportunity to create awareness of your Enactus team and your efforts to build sustainable communities. By informing the community about your project plans, progress, and results, you're sharing best practices and may also draw additional project involvement and support.

## **Questions**

For questions about the Ford C3 Building Sustainable Communities Project Partnership, please contact your country office.

## **Sponsor: Ford Philanthropy**

Ford Philanthropy focuses on providing access to essential services, education for the future of work and entrepreneurship opportunities for under-resourced and underrepresented communities. Ford



Philanthropy's partnerships and programming are designed to be responsive to unique community needs, ensuring people have equitable opportunities to move forward. Harnessing Ford's scale, resources and mobility expertise, Ford Philanthropy drives meaningful impact through grantmaking, Ford Resource and Engagement Centers and employee volunteerism. For more information, visit [fordphilanthropy.org](http://fordphilanthropy.org).