



Someone Recognizes Your Impact

De Michael Lake <mike@leadingcities.org>

Data Qui, 2026-04-09 12:23

Para Darlan <biocerr@hotmail.com>

Hi Darlan!

I'm Mike Lake, president and CEO of Leading Cities, a nonprofit that I started back in 2008 as a think tank focused on one question: *how do we enable communities to adopt sustainable, innovative technology for a more resilient future?* A decade later, that question led us to build the [QBE AcceliCITY Resilience Challenge](#), and this year marks its eighth — which means we've had a long time to figure out what actually works.

I'm reaching back out because World Intellectual Property Organization was nominated for this program, and in my experience, that doesn't happen by accident. Someone in our network saw what you're building and thought: *this solution has the potential to shape community resilience*. I've learned to trust those instincts.

Now, I also know what you might be thinking: *"We've done accelerators. They take months, burn the team out, and we end up with a certificate and a Slack channel."*

Fair. Most do. Here's what makes this one different.

The Resilience Challenge is fully virtual, built for founders and team members who are already running a company, and not ones who can afford to pause everything. The weekly lift is minimal, and the program is designed around one specific outcome: getting your solution in front of the city leaders, procurement teams, and investors who can actually move it forward. We're consistently ranked among the top 5 govtech accelerators globally, simply because of what companies walk away with: real relationships, government-readiness credentials that investors recognize, and a path to pilot deployment that most startups spend years trying to build on their own.

Oh, and \$175,000 in equity-free funding doesn't hurt either.

Applications close April 30. [Apply here.](#)

If you'd rather hear it straight from us first, we have a virtual info session coming up on **April 14th and April 28th**. These are short, no pressure, and a great place to ask the questions that would help you decide. [Register here.](#)

Or, just hit reply. Myself or my colleague Ava will get back to you as soon as we can. Thank you for everything you do to make the world a more resilient place.

Michael Lake

Michael Lake

President & CEO

Phone: +1 (617) 506 3499



Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).