

# Anchor Institution Network

0.5 bonus points available

## Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that participate in external networks to develop and share new strategies for deploying higher education's intellectual and place-based resources to enhance the economic and social wellbeing of the communities they serve.

## Criteria

Institution is participating in the Higher Education Anchor Mission Initiative (a joint project of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities and The Democracy Collaborative) or an equivalent network for *anchor institutions* approved by AASHE.<sup>1</sup>

## Scoring

An institution earns 0.5 bonus points for participating in an external network of anchor institutions. Partial points are not available.

## Reporting Fields

### Required

- ☐ A brief description of the institution's participation in an external network of anchor institutions
- ☐ Website URL where information about the anchor institution activities or mission is available

### Optional

- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (an employee who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

## Standards and Terms

### Anchor institution

Consistent with The Democracy Collaborative, anchor institutions are defined as follows:

Anchor institutions are enterprises such as universities and hospitals that are rooted in their local communities by mission, invested capital, or relationships to customers, employees, and vendors. As place-based entities that control vast economic, human, intellectual, and institutional resources, anchor institutions have the potential to bring crucial, and measurable, benefits to local children, families, and communities... Increasingly, anchor institutions... are embracing the responsibility their economic impact entails and are expanding their public or nonprofit mission to incorporate what we call an "anchor mission"—consciously applying their long-term, place-based economic power, in combination with their human and intellectual resources, to better the long-term welfare of the communities in which they reside.

---

<sup>1</sup> Email [stars@aashe.org](mailto:stars@aashe.org) to inquire about program equivalence prior to submission.