

Google.org Impact Challenge

Frequently Asked Questions

About

What is the Google.org Impact Challenge Dublin?

The Google.org Impact Challenge Dublin is an open invitation to nonprofits with a material presence in Dublin to share their vision for innovative ways to make our community stronger by increasing economic opportunity. We call on the public to vote from among fifteen selected projects for the one they believe will have the greatest potential for impact in the community. Winning organisations receive grant funding and Google training to help turn their ideas into reality.

Why is Google hosting the Google.org Impact Challenge in Dublin?

Google has been part of Dublin since 2003, and was one of the first offices to open outside of our headquarters in California. Today, over 3,500 Googlers call Dublin home, and supporting Dublin nonprofits is part of our culture. We were one of the first major tech companies to plant roots in Dublin and it's been exciting to see how the industry continues to inspire new ideas in the community. Over the past five years, Google Ireland has given over \$8.5M to the Irish community through Googler donations and Google's grant making & donation-matching programmes. The Impact Challenge will add another €1M to this amount. The Google.org Impact Challenge is about fueling innovation to support our community and amplifying the terrific work of local nonprofits and social enterprises.

Where can I read a full copy of the rules? You can find the rules [here](#).

What if I still have questions?

Please contact us at dublin-impact-challenge@google.com. We will review every email and post responses to commonly asked questions on our FAQ here to ensure that all interested applicants have access to the same helpful information.

Voting

When can I vote?

Voting opens on 19th March at 12:01am and closes on 26th March at 23:49pm.

Can I vote more than once?

Votes are limited to 1 per person. Please do not try to vote more than once.

Criteria

What are we looking for?

Community Impact. Does the proposed project create economic opportunity in Dublin or work in other ways to help? Does it improve the lives of people in our community?

Innovation. Does the project provide an unexpected solution to an unmet need? Is it a novel application of a time-tested idea?

Reach. Does the project have ambitious goals and embody a big idea? Does it have the potential to scale directly or to serve as a model for other communities?

Feasibility. Is the team well-equipped to execute on the project and do they have a well-developed and realistic plan? Is the organisation's leadership nimble and inspired?

Entry

Is there a registration fee? No. Applying for the Google.org Impact Challenge Dublin is free.

How do I know if my organisation is eligible to participate? Please review the criteria and rules to see if you are eligible.

What if I am not a registered nonprofit or in the process of registering now? Can I still apply?

You must be either of the following at the time you apply: (1) a charitable organisation registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority ("CRA"); (2) a sports body with tax exemption; (3) an educational institution, including schools, colleges, universities, and trade schools; (4) an organisation pursuing public benefit activities on a non-profit basis, which may include companies limited by guarantee; Please see the rules for more details.

What if I have a great idea, but my nonprofit isn't based in Dublin?

The Google.org Impact Challenge Dublin is open to organisations with a material presence in the Contest Area, County Dublin, Ireland. If you believe your organisation has a material presence in this area, we would encourage you to apply. Please see the rules for details.

What if we're a local affiliate of a national organisation? Can we still apply?

As long as you have an organisation with a material presence in the contest area and you comply with the additional eligibility criteria laid out in the Challenge rules, you may apply.

What does it mean to have a material presence in Dublin?

It is up to your organisation to determine whether you feel that your presence in Dublin is material. If in doubt, please apply. Per the rules, all projects will be partially evaluated based

on the impact they can have on Dublin.

What if we're a nonprofit based in County Dublin, but do work outside of the area? Can we still apply?

Yes, as long as your organisation has a material presence in County Dublin at the time of your application.

Can my organisation submit more than one idea?

No. In general, organisations may only submit one application to the Challenge (there is an exception for colleges and universities, below).

What if I work for a large organisation, like a university, that has many departments - can we submit multiple applications?

Colleges and universities are permitted to submit more than one application, provided only one application per faculty or staff member authorized to represent the university or college is submitted. See the rules for full detail. If not a college or university, each eligible organisation is only allowed to submit one application, so please be sure to coordinate with others in your organisation who might apply.

Can groups that are fiscally sponsored apply for the Google.org Impact Challenge Dublin?

Fiscal sponsors can submit an application on behalf of sponsored groups. Only the sponsored group must have a material presence in Dublin. For additional details on applications submitted through fiscal sponsors, please see the rules.

Can my organisation submit a joint application with another organisation?

Only one organisation can apply per application, but it is fine if that application references collaboration with another organisation. If your organisation is selected as a winner, it may work with other organisations to complete your proposed project, as long as your organisation complies with the rules and the terms of the grant agreement.

Projects

What do you mean when you say "project"?

A project is your organisation's proposed concept and implementation plan for how you will create more economic opportunity in your community. If selected for a grant, we'll be supporting the implementation of this project - so we need to know exactly how the grant will help you realize your plan.

If another organisation is currently implementing a similar concept, can we still submit the idea?

Yes, but please note that projects will be judged in part on their innovative approach and potential to scale. So you'll need to tell us how and why your implementation is innovative for the community, why your organisation is uniquely suited to implement the concept in a way

that will be more successful, or how you plan to partner with other organisations to achieve success.

Does this have to be a new idea for my organisation?

It need not be brand new. In fact, it may already be a work in progress. If so, we would like to hear exactly how a grant will change the trajectory of your progress toward implementation, scale, and impact.

Over what time period should the grant funds be spent?

We expect the grant to be spent over the course of one to two years.

Can the grant be used to fund overhead and staffing costs?

Yes, but the large majority of the award should be devoted to the implementation of the project.

Will details of our project idea be kept confidential?

Google will not treat your project as confidential or proprietary, and the details of your project will be shared with Advisors and possibly others to evaluate your proposal, so please do not submit any proprietary or confidential information in your application. Please keep in mind that if your organisation is selected as a winner, your project summary will be made available to the public on the website.

Process

Can I get a copy of the application questions before I fill out the application?

Yes, you can find a copy of the application questions here.

Can we include appendices or additional information to the application?

The application includes an opportunity to provide links to additional resources. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept any attachments beyond those linked as additional materials in the application form.

Can I save a draft of my application on the site if I want to edit it later?

No. Applications can't be saved for later completion, so we recommend drafting your responses in a separate document first and only completing the application form when the entire application is ready for submission.

How do I make sure my application is successfully submitted?

Make sure all required fields are populated and within the given word limits, then click the "Submit" button. If the application has been successfully submitted, you should see a screen with a message confirming that we received your application, and you should also receive a confirmation email to the email address you provided. If you have any questions about your application submission, please contact us at: us-impact-challenge@google.com.

I've submitted my application. What do I do now?

That's great news. No further action is required. We'll reach out if we require any additional information, and will announce the finalists per the timeline on the website.

Does my submission have to be in English?

Yes, please submit your application in English.

Do I need a Google account to apply?

No, you don't need a Google account.

How will the entries be judged?

All applications received were reviewed by a team at Google and a panel of Advisors. Applications were evaluated based on the Challenge rules. A total of ten nonprofits were selected as winners. The public will pick one People's Choice Winner from the ten winners during a public vote running in February 2019.

Who are the Advisors?

See our panel of Advisors [here](#). The Advisors are selected based on both their demonstrated commitment to improving their communities and their ability to rally public support for the best ideas.

What if an advisor has an affiliation with an organisation who applies? We ask advisors not to be involved in scoring applications from any organisation they are personally affiliated with (for example, if an advisor or their family member are on the board of the organisation). The application's score will be determined only by the remaining advisors.

Will every single application be reviewed?

Yes, we review all eligible applications received.