Google.org Impact Challenge

Frequently Asked Questions

About

What is the Google.org Impact Challenge Ohio?
The Google.org Impact Challenge Ohio is an open invitation to nonprofits with a material presence in the Ohio area 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 five selected projects for the project they believe will have the greatest potential for impact. Winning organizations receive grant funding and Google support to help turn their ideas into reality.

Why is Google hosting the Google.org Impact Challenge in Ohio?
Google previously held an Impact Challenge in Cleveland, and we're excited to return to Ohio for a statewide challenge.

We are proud that in 2018, 31,000 Ohio businesses, website publishers, and nonprofits benefitted from Google tools and that we helped provide $6.7 billion of economic activity for Ohio organizations (source). And we know that for many small businesses and nonprofits, learning how to harness the Internet can help them grow their organizations. We also recognize the importance of digital skills when searching for a job in Ohio. We're excited to partner with terrific nonprofits, libraries, and community organizations throughout the state to help create more economic opportunity in Ohio.

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 us-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.

Criteria

What are we looking for?

Community Impact. Does the proposed project create economic opportunity in the Ohio

area? 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 organization's leadership nimble and inspired?

<u>**Entry**</u>

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

How do I know if my organization is eligible to participate?
Review the rules here.

What if I am not a registered nonprofit or in the process of registering now? Can I still apply?
You must be registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit at the time the application is submitted. However, if you are a fiscally sponsored organization, your fiscal sponsor can apply on your behalf, provided it is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit at the time the application is submitted. Please see here for more details.

What if I have a great idea, but my nonprofit isn't based in Ohio?
The Google.org Impact Challenge Ohio is open to 501(c)(3) nonprofit or fiscally-sponsored organizations with a material presence in the state of Ohio. If you believe your organization 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 organization? Can we still apply?
As long as you're a US 501(c)(3) nonprofit or fiscally-sponsored organization with a material presence in the Ohio area at the time you submit the application, you are eligible to apply.

What does it mean to have a material presence in Ohio?
It is up to your organization to determine whether you feel that your presence in the Ohio area is material. If in doubt, please apply. Per the rules, all projects will be partially evaluated based on the impact they can have on the Ohio area.

What if we're a nonprofit based in the Ohio area, but do work outside of the area? Can we still apply?
Yes, as long as your organization has a material presence in the Ohio area at the time of your application.

Can we apply if we're a for-profit business with a social impact?
Unfortunately, no. The Google.org Impact Challenge is only open to qualified registered 501(c)(3) nonprofits (or fiscally-sponsored organizations) with a material presence in Ohio.

Can my organization submit more than one idea?
No. In general, organizations may only submit one application to the Challenge (there is an exception for colleges and universities, below). Fiscal sponsors can submit more than one application if they are applying on behalf of multiple sponsored groups.

What if I work for a large organization, 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 details. If not a college or university, each eligible organization is only allowed to submit one application, so please be sure to coordinate with others in your organization who might apply.

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

Can I still apply if I'm already a Google.org grantee?
Yes, you can apply. We are looking for the best submissions regardless of where they come from, though please note that a key criterion is "Innovation", so make sure your project tackles the issue it seeks to address in a new and creative way.

Projects

What do you mean when you say "project"?
A project is your organization'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.

What do you mean when you say "economic opportunity"?
The Google.org Impact Challenge supports projects that work to help disadvantaged communities achieve economic independence through new approaches to building skills and accessing the labor market.

If another organization 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 organization is uniquely suited to implement the concept in a way that will be more successful, or how you plan to partner with other organizations to achieve success.

Does this have to be a new idea for my organization?
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.

What type of projects have been selected in past Challenges?
We are always looking for new and innovative ideas, especially those that exceed our criteria. Previously selected winners can be viewed for Illinois and Iowa.

Over what time period should the grant funds be spent?
We expect the grant to be spent over the course of one to three 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 judges 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 organization is selected as a winner, your project summary will be made available to the public on the website.

Will my organization be required to open source intellectual property created with Award funds?
The grant agreement signed by Winners requires that intellectual property created with

Award funds be broadly available for free and licensed under a permissive, open source license such as the Apache 2.0 license for code and the Creative Commons license CC-BY 2.0 International for other materials such as reports and training materials. That way the world will benefit from anything you create using Award funds. If you have questions regarding open source licensing or terms, please check with your legal counsel.

Does the open source requirement apply to pre existing intellectual property?
The open source requirement only applies to intellectual property created with Award funds (e.g. new intellectual property or additions to existing intellectual property).

What is a fiscally-sponsored organization?
A fiscal sponsor is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides oversight for a project by another organization or group that is not a 501(c)(3). We encourage you to reach out to your legal counsel if you have questions about the fiscal sponsorship legal structure. In the case of the Google.org Impact Challenge, the fiscal sponsor must apply on behalf of the sponsored project or group.

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 will be reviewed by a team at Google and a panel of judges. Applications will be evaluated based on the Challenge [rules](#). A total of five nonprofits will be selected as winners. The public will pick one People's Choice Winner from the five winners during a public vote.

Who are the judges?
See our panel of judges on the website. The judges 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 a judge has an affiliation with an organization who applies?
We ask judges not to be involved in scoring applications from any organization they are personally affiliated with (for example, if a judge or their family member is on the board of the organization). The application's score will be determined only by the remaining judges.

Will every single application be reviewed?
Yes, we will review all eligible applications received.