

Prize Competitions & Challenge.Gov

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Longitude Prize

Problem: Inability to accurately determine longitude caused the British Navy many accidents and impacted their naval superiority.

Year: 1714

Sponsor: British Government

Prize Amount: £20,000 (Today's value > £2,000,000)

Winner: John Harrison, a watchmaker



DC Flag Design Competition

Problem: Over 100 years after the founding of the District of Columbia the U.S. Capitol was still without an official flag.

Year: 1938

Sponsor: U.S. Congress

Winner: Charles A.R. Dunn, a flag designer, who produced a design based on George Washington's family's coat-of-arms

2010 - America COMPETES Reauthorization Act (P.L. 111-358)

“Each head of an agency, or the heads of multiple agencies in cooperation, may carry out a program to award prizes competitively to stimulate innovation that has the potential to advance the mission of the respective agency.”

The COMPETES Reauthorization Act mandated that GSA:

- “Facilitate the use of prize competitions across Federal Government”

March 8, 2010: M-10-11, Subject: “Guidance on the Use of Challenges and Prizes to Promote Open Government”

- “GSA will make available a web-based platform for prizes and challenges within 120 days”
Established Challenge.Gov.

Federal Prize Authority
has been in place
since **2010**

Over **1,800** prize
competitions
launched



> **100** Federal
agencies have
participated

Over **\$500M**
offered in
prizes and
other awards



Challenge.Gov Program

- Consultative Services
- Support for Challenge & Prize Community of Practice
- Develop practical toolkits
- Knowledge products

Challenge.Gov Platform

- Advanced infrastructure
- Secure - Fisma Moderate
- Intuitive User Experience
- Accessible
- Open Source Code

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Welcome to Challenge.Gov
Here, members of the public can participate to help the U.S. government solve problems big and small.

Explore challenges

Active Challenges

Challenges sorted by those closing soonest

- 2022 FAA Challenge: Smart Connected Aviation Student Competition**
Department of Transportation - Federal Aviation Administration
This year's FAA Challenge focuses on Smart Connected Aviation, providing undergraduate and...- Lunabotics Junior Contest**
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
K-12 Students: Design a robot that can dig and move lunar soil (regolith) from one area of...- Taking Action: COVID-19 Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Challenge**
National Science Foundation
Identifying systemic strategies to address long-term impacts of COVID-19 on DEI in STEM.

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Important update on 01/12/22
Watch the recorded informational webinar held on Dec. 06, 2021, 2PM EST at <https://www.nsf.gov/video/COVID19Challenge@nsf.gov>

Taking Action: COVID-19 Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Challenge
Identifying systemic strategies to address long-term impacts of COVID-19 on DEI in STEM.
NSF is seeking submissions in a page narrative format describing the steps that HEIs have taken, or will take, to mitigate the long-term negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on DEI in STEM.

Apply for this challenge

Follow challenge (04)

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Submission period: Open until 01/30/22 10:59 PM CST








Challenge type: Ideas
Total cash prizes: \$200,000
Prize challenge

Spotlighting Programs
• AIRSPACE • HBCU/UP • ISAMP • JGCP
• AGEP • HSI • NSF INCLUDES

Overview Prizes Rules Judging How to enter FAQ Contact Winners

Prize Competition Examples

CHALLENGE.GOV

	<i>Analytics</i>
	<i>Entrepreneurship</i>
	<i>Ideas</i>
	<i>Design</i>
	<i>Scientific</i>
	<i>Software</i>
	<i>Technology</i>



Benefits to the federal government:

- Partnerships
- Attract leading edge innovators
- Brings out-of-discipline perspectives to bear
- Pay only for success
- Can be an onramp to follow-on direct activities

Benefits to innovators:

- Selection not based on past performance
- No-strings attached funding
- Intellectual property remains with the innovator
- Opportunities for follow-on funding



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