

FAQ's

Once I submit to the Ideas Phase, can I continue to edit my submission?

Yes. We encourage you to submit your idea as early as possible and continue to edit it. **The form will be locked and you won't be able to edit content after 11:30 p.m. PST on February 15, 2018.**

What is the time commitment like?

You can spend as little or as much time as you'd like. If you are looking to spend a minimal amount of time, just fill out the entry form. Or, you can commit more time by learning from other innovators, getting feedback from mentors and continuing to advance your idea. The more you put into the process, the more you can expect to get out of it. Only New Innovators will be scored on participation and collaboration.

Can I submit more than one idea?

Yes. If your organization and/or team is working on a few projects on the topic, please include them.

Are there benefits to submitting an idea in advance of the deadline?

Yes. If you complete your submission by December 22, 2017, you will be paired with an expert innovator to help improve your submission. If you add your concept early, you'll also receive feedback from the OpenIDEO team, peer participants and get more support to make your entry the best it can be, while also learning design thinking in the process.

Who from my team should submit the idea? Should it look like it's coming from my CEO/ED?

As long as you are authorized to submit an idea on behalf of a team or organization, it doesn't matter who submits it. You can also create a profile for your organization and add team members.

How much information do you want? Should I submit a budget/business plan/usual RFP stuff?

Please answer all the questions in the submission form. At this stage, we are not asking for a business plan or budget. Ideas being considered for funding will be asked for additional materials in March 2018.

How does IP work in an open innovation prize?

All content published is available to the public. If there is sensitive material, please note that and email us at ecprize@ideo.com with the title 'EC Prize - Confidential' Please include a link to your public submission. For more information visit our Terms and Conditions.

What is the difference between Promising Ideas and Winners?

Winners are the highest scoring submissions in each category and will be awarded funding. Promising Ideas have received high scores but not high enough to be considered for funding. Promising Ideas will be invited to join the Early Childhood Innovation Network and will continue to receive support via mentorship and opportunities to apply for funding.

How many Winners and Promising Ideas will be chosen?

There is no set number. But we are looking for the best ideas in each category that can benefit from the funding amount available.

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Do I have to have a legal entity in order to submit an idea?

New Innovators may be individuals or teams of individuals.

Early Stage Innovators and Advanced Innovators must be either 501(c)(3) organizations (or have fiscal sponsorship by a 501(c)(3) organization), corporations, partnerships or limited liability companies.

What can I do with my prize money?

Prizes awarded to New Innovators will have no restrictions or conditions, although the winners will be encouraged to remain engaged in the innovator network and stay in touch with the prize Sponsor on the development of their ideas.

Early Stage Innovators and Advanced Innovators who are awarded prizes must sign a grant agreement requiring them to, among other things: (i) submit a report one year after receiving funding about their progress toward achieving their proposed innovative solutions, (ii) provide a detailed accounting of how your funds were spent, and (iii) use the funds to further the charitable purposes of the Early Childhood Innovation Prize as approved by GCI. Any portion of the award that is not expended or committed for the charitable purposes authorized by GCI must be returned. Prize funding can/cannot be used as reimbursement for expenses that predate the award.

Is the prize money taxable?

Depending on your particular circumstances, prizes may be taxable. Please consult your tax advisor. GCI will comply with all applicable U.S. federal tax rules regarding reporting payment of the prizes.

Who is ineligible to participate in the prize?

The following persons are not eligible to receive awards:

- (a) GCI's current and former full-time employees, officers, and agents,

 - (b) any members of the immediate families (parent, child, sibling and spouse of each) and those living in the same households as the persons listed in (a),

 - (c) any members of the immediate families (parent, child, sibling and spouse of each) and those living in the same households as the judges or members of the selection committee, and

 - (d) individuals who are part of the selection committee.
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