Apps for Communities

Making local public information more personalized, usable, and actionable for all Americans.

Detailed description

Can a mobile app improve the quality of life for a farmer in America’s heartland? Can a web app help school children in Detroit, MI?

The Knight Foundation and the FCC challenge you to develop a software application (app) that delivers personalized, actionable information to people that are least likely to be online. Using hyper-local government and other public data you should develop an app that enables Americans to benefit from broadband communications — regardless of geography, race, economic status, disability, residence on Tribal land, or degree of digital or English literacy — by providing easy access to relevant content.

The Apps for Communities Challenge is an initiative of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation ("Knight Foundation") and the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"). The Challenge will offer up to $100,000 in prizes to winning application developers and is intended to bring together providers of public data, developers, and traditionally underserved populations through a national contest. The goals of the Challenge are to:

- make local public information more personalized, usable, and accessible for all Americans;
- promote broadband adoption, particularly among Americans who are less likely to be regular Internet users (including low-income, rural, seniors, people with disabilities and the low digital/English literacy communities); and
- create better links between Americans and services provided by local, state, Tribal, and federal governments.

For example, you can create an app that gives consumers and small businesses valuable information about their communities in an easy to understand, mostly graphic way on their cell phones; an app that delivers contract and seasonal job post alerts in English and Spanish via text message; an app that connects people to health care in their communities via public transportation; or an app that makes it easy for people with limited digital or English proficiency to go through intro screens without extensive instructions or pressing many tiny keys.

From: Federal Communications Commission
Category: Science & Technology
Partners: John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Submissions
Ending in 3 months

$100,000 in prizes

153 supporters

Thanks for your support!

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http://appsforcommunities.challenge.gov/

4/20/2011
Apps for Communities

The FCC seeks to promote broadband deployment and adoption for all Americans. New applications can pull new users online, as well as increase the value of a broadband connection for existing users.

Consistent with the Knight Foundation’s mission to foster informed and engaged communities and FCC’s goal to encourage broadband adoption and deployment, the FCC and Knight Foundation are co-sponsoring this Challenge. With this contest, we want to reward experiments—good ideas—small ideas with big impact that can be replicated throughout the country.

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How to enter

The Challenge Submission Period begins on April 14, 2011 and ends at 11:59 EDT July 11, 2011 (the “Challenge Submission Period”). The Challenge Administrator’s computer, set to Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), is the official time-keeping device for this Challenge. Entries may be submitted beginning at 12:00 AM on April 14, 2011 and must be received by July 11, 2011 11:59 PM EDT. Winners will be announced on a date and time to be determined.

Participants shall apply via the Challenge.gov portal and add a link to the fully functioning app or demonstration and your source code. To qualify, you need to build an application – web, mobile, or text/SMS based – that uses one of the OSI Approved open source licenses. Any data source used must be publicly available. You will need to host your own application during the judging process and ensure that our panel of judges has easy access to your application (or, in the case of a mobile platform that the judges may not have access to, a demonstration of the working product).

Refer to the rules for important information regarding eligibility, prizes, and other requirements.

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Important dates

Submission Period:
Start: Apr 14, 2011 12:00 AM EDT End: Jul 11, 2011 11:59 PM EDT

Judging Period:
Start: Jul 12, 2011 12:00 AM EDT End: Jul 26, 2011 11:59 PM EDT

Winners announced:
Aug 02, 2011 12:00 AM EDT

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Judges

A full list of judges will be announced shortly.

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Judging criteria

Local Impact
Does the app provide easy access to relevant content with an emphasis on hyper-local data from cities, counties, townships, Tribes, and states? Does the app enable better links between Americans and services provided by government?

User experience and presentation
Is the app simple, well-designed, and easy to use for the intended audience, e.g., low-income, rural, seniors, people with disabilities, the low digital/English literacy communities?

Accessibility
Is the app usable by and useful to people with disabilities?

Sustainability
How likely is this app to survive post contest? Is this a viable app? Is the idea promising enough to warrant sustained development and attention?

http://appsforcommunities.challenge.gov/
Focus on traditionally disconnected populations
Is the app likely to promote broadband communications adoption, particularly among Americans who may not be regular Internet users (including low-income, rural, seniors, people with disabilities and the low digital/English literacy communities)?

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Prizes

Grand Prize - $30,000
Second Prize - $20,000
Third Prize - $10,000
Runners Up - $5,000

Bonus: Best Design and Visualization - $10,000
Bonus: Most Replicable Application - $10,000
A prize for the app that can be replicated and used across the most local communities.

Bonus: Best use of SMS - $5,000

Bonus: Digital Proficiency - $5,000
A prize for the app that best impacts people with limited digital proficiency.

Bonus: English literacy - $5,000
App that best impacts people with limited English literacy.

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