



A FLUID RESEARCH APPROACH

Foundational research and emerging technology activities are at an all-time high across the United States. There needs to be a civic-engaged approach to accelerate transitioning research and technology from the discovery phase to being practiced in communities. The ongoing CIVIC Innovation Challenge, presented by the National Science Foundation (NSF), looks to answer this need, and evolve the approach for research and technology.

CIVIC INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2024

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), in coordination with NSF, U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, continues the research and action competition: CIVIC Innovation Challenge. CIVIC is uniquely designed to enable transition to practice of innovations into communities, by: (1) flipping the community-university dynamic, empowering communities and researchers to jointly identify civic priorities and address these priorities as equal partners; (2) focus on research-centered solutions that are ready for piloting in and with communities, where real-world outcomes can be evaluated within 12 months; (3) develop a coalition of communities and civic partners and a multi-disciplinary set of researchers to co-create and execute pilot projects; and (4) organize and foster nationwide “communities of practice” around high-need problem areas, which allows for meaningful knowledge sharing and cross-site collaboration during both the pre-development and piloting stages.

CIVIC Innovation Challenge 2024’s competition will be organized into two stages, under two tracks:

Track A: Climate and Environmental Instability – Building Resilient Communities through Co-Design, Adaption, and Mitigation

Track B: Resource & Service Equity – Bridging the Gap Between Essential Resources and Services & Community Needs



In Stage 1, approximately 40 planning grants will be awarded for six months to undertake planning and team development activities. Only Stage 1 CIVIC awardees can participate in the CIVIC Stage 2 competition. In Stage 2, approximately 20 full awards will be made, with generous budgets for up to 12 months.

IMPACT OF CIVIC INNOVATION CHALLENGE

- CIVIC lays the foundation for a broader and more fluid exchange of research and technology capabilities and civic priorities through joint partnerships involving civic partners and the research community.
- CIVIC continues to influence an improved approach to transitioning research and technology into communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Stage 1 Proposals Received (Q3 FY24)

MILESTONES

- Stage 1 Awards
- Stage 2 Submissions
- Stage 2 Awards

PERFORMERS/PARTNERS

- National Science Foundation
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

