

Future of Work Grand Challenge FAQ

This list of Frequently Asked Questions is in response to the most commonly asked questions at the Future of Work Grand Challenge launch event, which took place on June 22, 2020. Please continue to revisit this page, as we will add content throughout the competition. For any questions regarding the Future of Work, please email: futureofwork@newprofit.org

THE FUTURE OF WORK GRAND CHALLENGE

Who are the partners involved with the Future of Work Grand Challenge (FOWGC)?

New Profit: New Profit is a venture philanthropy organization that backs breakthrough social entrepreneurs who are advancing equity and opportunity in America.

MIT Solve: MIT Solve is a marketplace for social impact innovation with a mission to solve world challenges.

XPRIZE: XPRIZE is a future-positive non-profit organization that is the global leader in designing and implementing innovative competition models to solve the world's grandest challenges.

What are the goals of the Future of Work Grand Challenge?

Together, New Profit, XPRIZE, and MIT Solve are launching The Future of Work Grand Challenge to rapidly reskill 25,000 displaced workers into living-wage jobs in the next 30 months, equip influential workforce boards with vetted tools to support the wave of displaced workers in six months and achieve broader systemic change to help prepare 12 million Americans from underinvested communities for workforce success by 2025.

How are the MIT Solve and XPRIZE challenges different?

The two challenges are distinct but highly complementary. XPRIZE Rapid Reskilling will develop no-cost training, job placement and retention solutions for living wage jobs, while MIT has a greater focus on competitors innovating to help learners and workers assess their skills, find the jobs they are looking to pursue, and providing the support they need to get into those occupations.

[XPRIZE Rapid Reskilling](#) will help workers facing systemic barriers, dislocation, and other challenges access knowledge and skills to help them thrive in the new economy, with a focus on reducing the time it takes to train for and secure living-wage jobs. XPRIZE will begin accepting community feedback on Guidelines beginning on June 22, 2020 and formal competing team applications will be accepted in September 2020.

The [MIT Solve Reimagining Pathways to Employment in the U.S. Challenge](#), in partnership with the Morgridge Family Foundation, will power a six-month competition to find and support the most promising solutions to help workers assess their skills, find high-growth jobs, and get support to land those jobs. Submissions are now open.

What is the timeline for the Future of Work Grand Challenge?****XPRIZE Rapid Reskilling**

Official Launch	June 22, 2020
Early Team Registration Deadline	October 29, 2020
Regular Team Registration Deadline	November 20, 2020
Qualifying Submission Deadline	December 16, 2020
Qualifying Round Judging	December, 2020 - February, 2021
Round 2 Development & Testing	February, 2021 - November, 2021
Round 2 Judging	November, 2021 - February, 2022
Round 3 Development & Testing	February, 2022 - November, 2022
Round 3 Judging	November, 2022 - January, 2023
Winners Announced	January, 2023

MIT Solve Reimagining Pathways to Employment Challenge in the US

Official Launch	June 22, 2020
Deadline to Submit a Solution	November 20, 2020 17:30 EST
Finalists Announced	December 17, 2020
Finalist Interviews with Judges	January 25, 2021
Winners Announced	February 10, 2021 10:00 - 11:30 AM EST
IBM-Hosted Matchmaking & Scoping Workshops	Early February

Workforce Development Board (WDB)

WDB Recruitment Completed	October, 2020
WDBs Announced	November, 2020
WDB-Solution Matching	February, 2021
WDB Pilot Participants Recruitment	January, 2021 - March, 2021
Solution Piloting Begins	April, 2021

Timeline is subject to change

EQUITY AND THE FUTURE OF WORK GRAND CHALLENGE

How is the Future of Work Grand Challenge centering equity?

Entrance into the competition is free to reduce barriers to entry. Additionally, we are in active conversations with a set of potential funders and other partners about other ways to ensure solutions from proximate leaders and organizations are actively engaged in the competition. We are committed to recruiting diverse innovators with proximity to the issues. We are also organizing a worker advisory board to provide feedback throughout the length of the Grand Challenge and serve in an advisory capacity.

In what ways is New Profit working directly with communities who do not traditionally have access to competitions like these, or even know that an event like this exists? New Profit is thinking about this extensively and we are working to ensure that news of this competition is shared widely, to as many innovators as possible. This work is all about partnerships and we are in the midst of both active outreach and enhancing recruitment in local communities. We would welcome your (and other) partnership and ideas on this front, as it is critical for the success of the work. Please send an email to futureofwork@newprofit.org if you know of a local organization that should know about this challenge.

Is this Challenge inclusive of communities with disabilities?

Based on feedback we received during the event, we have made our digital assets accessible to all by adding closed captioning to all launch videos and materials. We will continue to identify other ways to broaden the accessibility of our materials throughout the competition.

In terms of the competition and solutions itself, we are in conversations with relevant field experts to ensure that competition guidelines and solutions themselves are accessible to individuals with disabilities. We would also encourage all teams applying to visit the resource page and upcoming events being offered at Respectability: <https://www.respectability.org/ada30/>

COMPETITION DETAILS

Can an organization apply to both challenges?

Yes. Application processes are separate, so an individual team or organization could apply to one, or both.

How can I stay updated on the Future of Work Grand Challenge?

Sign up at the bottom of the [Future of Work Landing Page](#) to receive updates.

Does geography and locality of solutions matter?

Solutions may be developed by individuals or teams anywhere across the globe, but must be applicable and able to be deployed in the United States.

What do you mean by worker-centric design?

Please see the [link here](#) to see our worker-centric design framework.

What is the XPERT Worker Advisory Board?

Please visit the [Future of Work Landing Page](#) to view our video outlining the XPERT Worker Advisory Board.

XPRIZE RAPID RESKILLING

How do I apply?

Applications are now closed.

How will the applications be reviewed?

There are standards and guidelines in place to ensure independent review, etc. The Challenge will engage workforce boards and frontline workers' feedback on the winning solutions, in addition to separate judging panels. Our public comment period on XPRIZE Guidelines ended July 15th.

How will the living wage be calculated?

We are looking to utilize [MIT's Living Wage calculator](#). This would be the floor the competitors are solving for, but by no means the limit. The judging process considers the competitors whose solutions lead to even higher average wages.

MIT SOLVE'S REIMAGING PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT IN THE U.S.

How do I apply?

Applications are now closed.

Am I eligible to apply for MIT Solve?

The Reimagining Pathways to Employment in the US Challenge is open to solutions that have at least a working, tested prototype that are:

1. Currently deployed in at least one US state
2. Operating in another country, but have plans to expand to at least one US state