

Ford Community Resiliency Student Challenge 2026

The Ford Community Resiliency Student Challenge 2026—a collaboration between Resolution Project, Enactus, and Ford Philanthropy—engages undergraduate students across six countries to build critical future-of-work skills while implementing community projects that address disaster preparedness, disaster relief, community resilience, and essential services. The program operates in **Australia, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.**

Purpose

The project addresses two pressing global challenges:

1. Youth skills gaps and workforce readiness in rapidly evolving labor markets shaped by technological change.
2. Community vulnerability to disasters, essential services disruptions, and structural inequities.

Students gain practical career-relevant competencies—including project management, systems thinking, financial literacy, and human-centered design—while local communities benefit from student-led innovations that enhance resilience.

Projects developed by the students need to **aim at strengthening disaster preparedness, resilience, and essential services.** While mobility is not the primary function of this project, student projects can address the set of challenges that mobility helps to address, generally around accessibility and logistics.

All templates needed for this program, and the General Terms & Conditions can be found [here](#).

General Program Timeline

This is the general program timeline. Please contact your Country Office for information about specific dates in your country.

Action	Timeline
Submission of teams' applications	February-April 2026
Training Sessions Completed	April-May 2026
Announcement of Grant recipients	February-July 2026
Teams complete projects	February-November 2026
Grant recipients recognized at National Competitions	April-July 2026
Teams submit final impact report	30 November 2026 by 18:00 UTC

Eligibility

All enrolled Enactus teams in the participating countries with projects meeting the program goals and reporting requirements listed below are eligible to apply for a 2026 Ford grant. The project submitted must have outcomes and impact between the following dates:

1 December 2025 – 30 November 2026

Each Enactus team may apply for only one grant. While teams may have many good ideas, please prioritize your needs and submit only one Application. It is recommended that teams select the project that is most clearly and strongly compatible with the purpose and requirements stated in the Program Purpose.

Application and Judging Criteria

Interested Enactus teams from the participating countries can apply using this [link](#).

Winning projects will receive a grant to further their project and impact. Application forms will be judged on the following criteria:

- *How well does the team create an innovative approach to strengthening the communities' disaster preparedness & relief, resilience, and essential services?*
Preparedness involves more than just having supplies. It includes systems, local and cultural knowledge, and partnerships. Building communities' resilience can be used in a broad way. Ford Philanthropy is looking for Enactus teams to create interesting, unique, and ingenious approaches to defining this term, the more creative the better. Students' projects may also address the set of challenges that mobility helps to address, generally around accessibility and logistics.
- *How well does the team's plan involve students in a leadership role?*
University students must be involved in a leadership role in the project, and all aspects of the project from design to implementation.
- *How well does the team involve a community-based organization as a partner?*
Winning applications will demonstrate an active and meaningful partnership with a local community-based organization. The term "community-based organization" is not used as a legal term here, but rather to describe any organization that plays a role in the life of the local community (e.g., schools, social service agencies, businesses, and government entities).
- *How well does the team's plan tangibly address an urgent and unmet community need?*
Successful Applications will describe a project that touches the community in meaningful ways and makes a difference on a topic of real importance to the local community.
- *How effectively has the team identified measurable outputs and outcomes to demonstrate the success of the project?*
You may refer to the [Enactus Competition documents](#) to learn more about impact definitions and Enactus project requirements.

Grants

Winning teams receive seed funding and mentorship to implement their projects during the program year. Please contact your Country Office to learn more about the number of grants available in your country, associated award amounts, and the exact timeline in which the grants will be awarded.

Final Impact Report

Teams that receive a grant are required to submit a Final Impact Report to detail the results of the project, including measurable outputs and outcomes. The final report is due on 30 November 2026 by 18:00 UTC. The submission link will be provided in late October 2026.

Media Coverage

Participating teams should execute media outreach (e.g., press release, web, local television, print, etc.) to promote their project in partnership with Ford Philanthropy. Media outreach is a great opportunity to create awareness of your Enactus team and your efforts to build sustainable communities. By informing the community about your project plans, progress, and results, you're sharing best practices and may also draw additional project involvement and support.

When recognizing Ford Philanthropy as a partner in your media outreach, please utilize the following resources: [Ford Philanthropy Logo](#)

Questions

For questions about the Ford Community Resiliency Student Challenge, please contact your country office.

Sponsor: Ford Philanthropy

Ford Philanthropy focuses on providing access to essential services, education for the future of work and entrepreneurship opportunities for under-resourced and underrepresented communities. Ford Philanthropy's partnerships and programming are designed to be responsive to unique community needs, ensuring people have equitable opportunities to move forward. Harnessing Ford's scale, resources and mobility expertise, Ford Philanthropy drives meaningful impact through grantmaking, Ford Resource and Engagement Centers and employee volunteerism. For more information, visit fordphilanthropy.org.