



INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SHEET AND STUDENT EVALUATOR INTEREST FORM

What is the Innovations Awards Program?

The Innovations Program identifies and promotes creative problem solving in the public sector through a national awards program that confers broad public recognition and monetary grants. Innovations at all levels of American government and across all policy areas are eligible to apply. The Innovations Program is administered by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School. Since its inception in 1985, the Program has recognized nearly 500 innovative programs, which have collectively received over \$20 million in grants for dissemination and replication activities. The Program has also provided substantive experience and data for over 50 teaching cases, as well as numerous videos, books, and research articles.

How are the award-winning programs selected?

More than 50 experts in government operations and policy participate in evaluating the applications received by the Innovations Program and through this process identify finalists that receive grants and Bright Ideas that receive recognition. The recruitment and evaluation process is conducted over one year. The Innovations National Selection Committee—a group of prominent public leaders—then selects the winners from among the finalists.

Who selects Innovations semifinalist and finalists?

Expert recruiters and evaluators include HKS faculty, alumni/ae, and staff with substantial policy or professional experience, as well as scholars, policy professionals, and public managers from across the nation. Evaluators are grouped into policy topic teams to provide broad and diverse perspectives on the pool of applicants. For the 2016-7 award cycle, we invite current HKS students to apply to participate in the recruitment and selection process of the Innovations in American Government competition.

How do I become involved with the Innovations Program?

If you have policy or professional experience in American government and would like to recruit applications for the Innovations serve as an Innovations evaluator, complete the Evaluator Interest Form, **attach your most recent resume**, and send them to the Innovations Program. Student recruiters and evaluators will receive a \$500 honorarium. If you do not have experience in U.S. government but are interested in innovation,

please share your information with us, as we have other opportunities for students to engage with our program through our fellowships and our Global Public Innovation Network.

What is the Innovations selection process?

Recruitment Process: The Innovations program conducts a rigorous solicitation process to recruit high quality applicants across all policy areas throughout the United States. In order to ensure a high quality of applications in each policy area, the program works with experts working in these fields. HKS students with U.S. government policy or professional experience are invited to apply to recruit between 5-10 very strong government initiatives within an assigned policy area to apply for the Innovations award and will promote the Innovations program to his/her networks. Recruitment will take place from January-April 2016.

Round One: Round one evaluators include Harvard faculty, staff, graduate students, alumni/ae, and local public managers. In this round, evaluators are grouped into teams based on area of policy expertise, and these teams select 100 semifinalist programs. Each semifinalist program then submits a supplementary application. Round one evaluation will take place over the summer of 2016. HKS students with U.S. government policy or professional experience are invited to apply to participate as evaluators to work alongside policy experts.

Round Two: Round two evaluators are typically heads of national professional and public interest associations, senior faculty and staff from Harvard and other universities, and public managers. In this round, evaluators review the supplemental applications and additional research and select programs to advance in the competition. Round two will take place in fall 2016. HKS students with research experience are invited to apply to participate as research consultants to the evaluation teams, and will participate in the selection meetings.

Round Three: In the first stage of round three, the Innovations Program selects experienced evaluators who have extensive policy expertise that corresponds closely to the characteristics of the finalist programs. Each evaluator conducts a two-day site visit at an assigned program and prepares a written report for the Innovations National Selection Committee. Round three will take place in winter 2016-7.

Final Selection: In the final stage of the competition, representatives of the finalist programs are invited to present their innovations to the Committee. The Committee selects the award winners based on the applications, site reports, and presentations. The final selection will take place in the spring of 2017.

What other activities does the Innovations Program do?

The Ash Center's Innovations in Government Program is comprised of several individual projects that work together to produce a cohesive marketplace for best practices and successful innovations in the public sector, both in the United States and throughout the world. The Innovations Program also sponsors a number of events during the year and supports fellowships, research projects, and a number of other activities.

**INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
2016 STUDENT EVALUATOR INTEREST FORM**

Please check:

- _____ I am interested in being an Innovations **recruiter**, AND I have U.S. government policy or professional experience.
- _____ I am interested in being a **round one** Innovations evaluator, AND I have U.S. government policy or professional experience.
- _____ I am interested in being a **round two** Innovations research consultant, AND I have research experience in government policy or professional experience.
- _____ I cannot be an evaluator, but I am interested in being involved with the Innovations program through other Innovations activities. ***Please specify:***
- _____

Please complete the following and return this form along with your resume via email to the Innovations Program at innovations@harvard.edu

EVALUATOR DATA

Preferred Salutation (Circle One): Dr. Mr. Ms.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

E-mail:

Phone:

Address (HKS students will receive all mail in their HKS student mailboxes)

(over)

STUDENT DATA (CONTINUED)

- I am a current HKS student (program/year): _____
- I am a current Harvard student (school/program/year): _____
- I am a HKS alumnus/a (program/year): _____
- I have been an evaluator for the Innovations Program previously (please circle): Yes No

How and when did you first learn of the Innovations Program? _____

Government Specification: Please circle the level of government with which you have the most experience.

Federal State Regional County City International*

Policy & Professional Expertise

Policy Area: Please rank (1, 2, 3) three or fewer areas of expertise

Policy Specialization: Please specify (e.g., recycling; elderly services; primary education; community policing)

- _____ Management/Governance/Technology _____
- _____ Community/ Economic Development _____
- _____ Criminal Justice/ Courts/Public Safety _____
- _____ Education _____
- _____ Environmental Management _____
- _____ Health Care and Social Services _____
- _____ Public Works/ Infrastructure _____
- _____ Public Engagement/Participation _____
- _____ Other _____

Client Specialization: If applicable, circle the age group your policy experience has focused on.
Children (under 5) Youth (6-24) Adults (25-64) Seniors (65+)

***International (please list countries)** _____

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