



1. Who is eligible to participate?

This contest is open to all current UChicago students.

2. Is past experience in the subject area required to participate?

No prior policy background or coursework is required. Just bring your well-seasoned ideas

3. How many people can join a team?

Teams must have a minimum of two members and a maximum of five.

4. What is the process to participate in a policy challenge?

- Attend an info session at the IOP on Wednesday, October 4 at 12:00 p.m. CT to answer any questions you may have (optional and no registration is required). Lunch will be provided.
- [Register](#) your team's participation by Sunday, October 15 at 11:59 p.m. CT. There are no limits on the number of teams that register, but a maximum of 15 teams will present at the first round event.
- Participate in competition mentor office hours (optional) between October 16 and November 3.
- Submit your team's proposals [here](#) by Sunday, November 5 at 11:59 p.m. CT. Teams must include this [title](#) page with their submission. If it is not included, 10% will be deducted from the team's score.
- Share team's slide deck (if there is one) to Joel Ebert by 11:59 p.m. CT on Tuesday, November 7. Be sure your team is using this [presentation template](#).
 - (email: jebert@uchicago.edu)
- Attend and present at pitch mixer on Thursday, November 9 at 5:00 p.m. CT. Each team will select a presentation slot of six minutes - three minutes to present and three minutes for judges to ask follow-up questions. The link to select a presentation time will be sent Monday, November 6. All members of a team do not need to be present at the presentation. The judges will announce the final three teams at the pitch mixer.
- Attend policy challenge finals on Monday, November 13 at 5:00 p.m. CT. All teams - even those who are not finalists - are encouraged to attend and support the other contestants.
 - If your team is selected to participate in the finals, you can make edits to the slide deck, but not to the proposal itself - what was submitted on November 6 is what will be shared with the judge. Updated slide decks are due to Joel Ebert by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sunday, November 12.



Finalist teams will have five minutes to present and judges will have five minutes for follow-up questions.

5. What are competition mentors?

To help refine proposals, teams are encouraged to meet with competition mentors. Mentors are a mix of faculty, staff, and practitioners with extensive experience and knowledge in the subject. Information will be shared once teams have registered.

Mentors for this competition include:

- Kate Brown, former Governor of Oregon, current IOP Pritzker Fellow
- Francis Torres, Bipartisan Policy Center
- Kristen Klurfield, Bipartisan Policy Center
- Rishab Mehan, Chicago Housing Authority
- Laura Dove, former US Senate Secretary for the Majority

6. How many one-on-one meetings can each team have with the competition mentors?

Each team will be able to meet with one mentor for one 30-minute session.

7. How long can the proposal be?

No more than two pages single spaced with a minimum of 10 point font and standard margins. Supporting graphics and a works cited page will not count toward the page count.

8. How are proposals judged?

- **Purpose:** Have you clearly outlined how your team's proposal will answer the challenge prompt?
- **Impact:** Are all stakeholders identified and included in the development of the proposal?
- **Sustainability:** Is this a realistic long term solution?
- **Process:** Has your team identified a timeline, proponent, and opponents for the proposal?
- **Creativity:** Is your proposal a fresh take on the issue?
- **Financing:** Does your plan clearly identify how it will be financed?
- **Presentation:** Was the proposal clearly articulated? Was the team able to answer judges' questions?
- **Overall Quality:** Is the evidence well researched? Is the problem well articulated? Does the proposal follow the evidence? Are all the elements (need, evidence, solution, financing, method of enactment) included? Were citations provided?



9. Can edits be made to proposals after it has been submitted?

If the submission deadline has not yet passed, you can resubmit an edited proposal once. No edits will be accepted past the deadline.

10. Can edits presentation decks be made after it has been submitted?

If the submission deadline has not yet passed, you can resubmit an edited proposal once. No edits will be accepted past the deadline.

11. Is there a template for the proposal?

Please use [this design template](#) for your presentation. You may use any of the slide styles provided.

12. Is a visual presentation required?

No, however, we have found teams find using a slide deck to be useful. The judges will have already read each team's proposal prior to the pitch presentation.

13. Is there a template for the presentation deck?

Please use [this design template](#) for your presentation. You may use any of the slide styles provided.

14. Can there be changes to a team's composition after registration?

Teammates can be removed, but no one can be added once a team has registered. All changes must be flagged for Joel Ebert (jebert@uchicago.edu).

15. What does the winning team receive?

Each member of the winning team will receive \$500.