

The Better Government Competition is an annual idea contest that attracts the interest of experts and citizens across the United States. Since 1991, the Competition has highlighted the nation's most innovative policy ideas, creating a forum that rewards and promotes promising new approaches and proven solutions. Since the Competition's establishment, implementation of winning entries has saved Massachusetts well over half a billion dollars, and influenced numerous other state and federal policy decisions. Visit <http://bgc.pioneerinstitute.org/category/reports-case-studies/> to see examples of past Better Government Awardees.

The 2014 Competition. Each year the Competition focuses on one of the country's biggest challenges. The 2014 competition seeks technological solutions to create greater efficiency, transparency, cost-effectiveness, and higher quality service in the public sector. The Institute seeks creative ideas and approaches utilizing technology, information systems, and telecommunications to make government more affordable, accessible, efficient, and less susceptible to fraud, waste, and abuse. Importantly, we seek ideas that are protective of individual rights.

Potential areas for applicants to consider:

- **Improving information-sharing** and communications between federal, state, and local governments.
- **Detection and prevention of fraud** in public benefit programs and improvement of administration and oversight of such programs, resource and referral practices, identity verification, and cyber security.
- **Reducing the administrative burden** and expense of complying with government reporting, licensing, permitting, and regulatory requirements.
- **Transportation advancements** including long-term maintenance for roads and bridges, day-to-day road repairs, advances in de-icing roadways, high-speed trains and efficiencies in all aspects inter-agency cooperation.
- **Intelligent traffic solutions** addressing traffic congestion problems that affect all major cities in the United States.
- **Reducing energy costs** incurred by government agencies.
- **Use of technology to address environmental concerns** including water and air pollution, waste management, deforestation, resource depletion, and alternative energy development and conservation.
- **Technology in education** from virtual classrooms to technology for school safety measures, administrative work, and CORI checks.

- **The future of government includes more use of wireless communications** for law enforcement and health care providers.
- **Other ideas?** Submitters are not limited to the categories listed above. Feel free to bring to our attention your own idea for technological advancements which will improve government.

How to Enter

Submit an idea paper of five or fewer pages describing the problem you're addressing and your solution. The "idea" can be a new concept or a recently implemented program that shows promising results. We do not expect great detail in the initial submission, but be sure to touch briefly on the following elements:

- **A description, with relevant background, of the problem to be addressed.**
- **An explanation of the proposed solution and how it would change current practice.** If appropriate, cite examples of similar approaches in place. If possible, discuss the costs and benefits of your approach compared to current practice; potential obstacles to implementation; and the potential for replication in Massachusetts. Please note: We do not consider legal obstacles or the need for new legislation barriers to entry.

Competition Schedule:

- **Entry Deadline:** Papers of up to five (5) pages due by Monday, April 7, 2014, 4:00 pm ET
- **Submit by email** at bgc@pioneerinstitute.org (include your paper as an attachment)
- **Submit online** at <http://bgc.pioneerinstitute.org/>
- **Winner and Runners-Up Announcement:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014
- **BGC Compendium and Awards Dinner:** In late June 2014, winning entries will be published and distributed to policy makers and opinion leaders; awards will be presented at a dinner ceremony.

Questions?



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