

## Challenge.gov – Where the Public Can Aid the U.S. Government in Solving Mission-Centric Problems

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Are you a civic-minded member of the community with an idea for solving government problems? Members of the public have the opportunity to search through hundreds of open competitions at [www.challenge.gov](http://www.challenge.gov). Federal agencies are continuously searching for innovative ideas to solve their unique challenges. The challenge.gov website posts challenges, with prize competitions, run by more than 100 federal agencies. These problem solving events include idea, creative, technical and scientific competitions in which United States federal agencies invite the public to solve perplexing mission-centric problems.

Are you curious how it works? It's quite simple really, the government posts a challenge, citizens share with their friends and then talented people find solutions to these problems.

Examples of participating federal agencies include but are not limited to:

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Food and Nutrition Service
- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- National Science Foundation
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

One such example of a challenge opportunity comes direct from the Small Business Administration. They are searching for innovative products and services that will help impact and empower the lives of women and families – [InnovateHER](#). The submission date for this unique opportunity is June 23, 2017. First place for this particular challenge is listed as \$40,000. Through competition, the SBA is seeking to amplify products and services that fill a need in the marketplace and have the potential for commercialization. For this particular competition, host organizations have been selected across the U.S. and they will select participants to send to the national competition. [Startup Junkie](#) in North West Arkansas is participating as the host organization in Arkansas. You must apply through this host organization in order to qualify for submission to the national competition. In order to apply for the [Ozark Regional InnovateHER Challenge](#) apply by May 29<sup>th</sup> to be considered.

While there are many government contracting opportunities out there that you may be aware of, Challenge.gov presents another way to become active in solving mission focused problems facing today's U.S. government.