



Innovation Forum Inaugural Civic Challenge

As part of Bellevue's Innovation Forum, the city seeks innovative design partnerships to address civic challenges and city priorities. Bellevue anticipates awarding 3-5 recipients in the inaugural event. Applicants should have—or be in the process of building—technology or business solutions that support priorities identified in any of the following documents:

- [Bellevue's Strategic Target Areas and Objectives](#)
- [Bellevue's Council Priorities](#)
- [Department Ideas and Challenges](#)

The inaugural Civic Challenge is open to individuals, teams, students, start-ups, and businesses.

Civic Challenge Award Recipients receive:

1. Coaching and mentoring from seasoned entrepreneurs, advisors, and investors
2. Design partnership with City of Bellevue staff to help test, optimize, and/or refine a product or service
3. Opportunity to showcase solutions for a Civic Tech audience and build relationships across the innovation ecosystem
4. Up to a \$15,000 stipend

Thank you to the sponsors of Bellevue's Civic Challenge including Amazon, Bellevue Downtown Association, Microsoft, Slalom, Salesforce, and T-Mobile.



Challenge participants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. **Community Engagement and Inclusion:** How does the broader community benefit from your idea? Do you work with students, non-profits, or community members? How does the proposal support equity and the needs of underserved populations?
2. **Alignment with the City of Bellevue's Priorities:** How does the proposal support the city priorities identified?
 - a. [Bellevue's Strategic Target Areas and Objectives](#)
 - b. [Bellevue's Council Priorities](#)
 - c. [Department Ideas and Challenges](#)
3. **Feasibility, Sustainability, Ability to Deliver:** Is the solution mature enough to deploy in Bellevue? Is it applicable and replicable to other governments or communities? Can the team succeed in moving the idea forward? Describe how your idea/product/process might scale.
4. **Innovative Approaches:** Are innovative and/or modern technology practices and approaches used? Bellevue seeks innovative solutions including processes, AI, data analytics, 5G, digital twins, edge computing, and smart technologies. How do innovative approaches help support better service delivery or outcomes?

Timeline

- Challenge officially opens on June 4, 2025
- Office hours (virtual and in person) for questions and application support
 - Wednesday, June 11: 3:30-5:00 pm PST
 - Thursday, June 26: 12:00-1:30 pm PST
- Proposal Submission Deadline: July 8, 2025, 5:00 pm PST
- Winners announced: August 8, 2025
- Agreements between Bellevue and selected teams developed August 8 and August 29, 2025
- Program Start Date: September 4, 2025
- Program Completion: January 30, 2026

Questions

Please email innovation@bellevuewa.gov with questions or join the office hours listed above.

Application

Applicants can use the form available online to work offline on their submission and when complete, should submit the final form via a web form. Winners of the challenge will work with the city of Bellevue on an agreement for deliverables. Additional details and application materials can be found at the URL below.

bellevuewa.gov/innovation

Application Form *(for drafting)*

Please use the information below to develop your application and when you are ready to submit it, use the online form to paste your information in. The form can be found at the URL above. The questions below are designed to allow participants to work offline.

Contact Information:

- **Primary Contact Name:**
- **Organization/Team Name:**
- **Address:**
- **City:**
- **State:**
- **ZIP Code:**
- **Phone Number:**
- **Email Address:**
- **Website (if applicable):**
- **Secondary Contact Name:**
- **Secondary Contact Phone:**
- **Secondary Contact Email:**

Narrative Questions: Please use no more than 250 words to answer each question.

1. Project Overview:

Please provide a brief overview of your project. What problem does it address, and what is your proposed solution? What are you hoping to achieve by partnering with the City of Bellevue?

2. Alignment with City Priorities:

How does your project align with the City of Bellevue's Strategic Target Areas and Objectives, Council Priorities, and/or Department Ideas and Challenges? Please be specific.

3. Feasibility and Sustainability:

Is your solution applicable and replicable in other governments, communities or markets and is it scalable? Is a version of your product already in market? If yes, how many users and what is the current feedback?

4. Innovative Approaches:

Describe the innovative and/or modern practices and approaches used in your project. How do these approaches support better service delivery or outcomes?

5. Community Engagement and Inclusion:

How does your project benefit the broader community? Does your proposal support equity and the needs of underserved populations?

6. Team Composition:

Who are the key members of your team, and what are their roles? Include brief bios highlighting relevant experience and expertise.

7. Milestones and Timelines:

Describe key deliverables for your innovation over the next 6-8 months. When will your solution be ready for deployment? What specific ideas are you hoping to test with Bellevue?

8. Partnerships and Collaborations:

Describe any partnerships or collaborations that are part of your project. How will these partnerships enhance your project's success? Are you open to collaborating with others who might be developing similar ideas?

9. Evaluation and Impact:

How will you measure the success of your project? What metrics or indicators will you use to evaluate its impact? What barriers do you believe the partnership can help you address?

10. Elevator Pitch

Provide a video link to your 2-minute elevator pitch. Include password if applicable.

Submission Instructions:

- Complete this form and submit it online by July 8, 2025, at 5:00 pm PST.
- Winners will be announced on August 8, 2025.
- Agreements between Bellevue and selected teams will be negotiated between August 8 and August 29, 2025.
- The program will start on September 4, 2025, and will be completed no later than January 30, 2026.