

2013
Better
Government
Competition



Your idea for better government could win

Enter Pioneer's
2013 Better
Government
Competition!

\$10,000!

The Better Government Competition is an annual idea contest for citizens and experts alike. Since 1991, the Competition has sought out and promoted innovative policy approaches and tested solutions. Implementation of the Competition's winning entries has saved Massachusetts well over half a billion dollars, and influenced numerous state and federal policy decisions.

Each year the Competition focuses on the country's biggest challenge. **The 2013 competition seeks ideas to facilitate job creation.** Our interest is not in how the government can serve as a venture capitalist or pick winners and losers, but rather how to make the Great American Job Engine roar once again; namely, how to:

- **Make it easier for small businesses to grow and succeed.** Can we draw lessons from states with high rates of small business growth? Can we lower the hurdles for raising seed capital or the cost to start or grow a venture?
- **Make manufacturing more attractive.** What federal, state or local actions will make it easier for manufacturing businesses to succeed?
- **Bring jobs back to high-unemployment areas.** How can we change the employment and business outlook in older, industrialized cities with chronic unemployment and little business activity?
- **Get the long-term unemployed and underemployed back into the workforce.** Can additional changes to welfare reform improve job prospects for the unemployed and reconnect those no longer in the workforce with jobs?
- **Leverage vocational-technical training.** Can we draw lessons from successful vocational-technical schools to improve urban vocational-technical school performance? How can we build stronger school-business partnerships?
- **Fix broken job training programs.** Can local and state government training programs meet job market dynamics more effectively? Is there a role for private sector businesses in improving job training and placement programs?
- **Make our community college system more effective.** Can we increase completion rates and the workforce relevance and academic quality of their programs?
- **Make our state college and university system more effective.** What models will increase affordability and improve programmatic quality?
- **Increase financial literacy and knowledge of business planning.** Can we ensure that high school graduates have a basic understanding of financial and business planning?
- **Other Ideas?** Ask. If it's on topic, we're probably open to it.

Should I Enter?

The Competition grand prize winner is awarded \$10,000; three runners-up receive \$1,000 each. The contest is open to all people and organizations—academics, non-profits, entrepreneurs, government officials, and interested citizens. Pioneer Institute can provide quality entrants with the resources to develop their ideas. We protect the identity of those preferring anonymity.

How to Enter

Submit an idea paper of five or fewer pages. Your paper can describe a new concept or a recently implemented program with promising results. We do not expect great detail in the initial submission, but be sure to touch 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. If possible, discuss the costs and benefits of your approach compared to current practice, obstacles to implementation, and the replicability in Massachusetts. (Please note: We do not consider legal obstacles or the need for new legislation barriers to entry.)

Better Government Competition Schedule

- **Entry Deadline: Monday, April 8, 2013, 4:00 pm ET**
- **Submit by email** at bgc@pioneerinstitute.org (include your paper as an attachment)
- **Submit online** at <http://www.pioneerinstitute.org/EnterTheBGC>, or using our Word template: www.pioneerinstitute.org/bgc/template2013.doc
- **Winner and Runners-Up Announcement: Tuesday, June 11, 2013**
- **Compendium and Awards Dinner:** In late June 2013, winning entries will be published and distributed to policy makers and opinion leaders, and awards presented at a dinner ceremony.

Questions?

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