

Process Questions

Has the Academy done Policy Innovations Challenges for other areas in the past?

Yes, we, also in coordination with AARP, did a Social Security challenge in 2016. You can read all about the winning proposals [here](#)

We also ran a "working together" challenge in 2015 on LTSS as part of Medicare and Medicaid at 50.

Do you expect winners to prepare a project budget for how they will use their \$20-25k? Or is the idea that winners will treat the \$20-25k prize, to be spent entirely at their discretion? Does that mean awards will be made to individuals (not to organizations, which will likely want to collect overhead on any incoming funds)?

No project budget will be required. If one applies as an individual and not as an employee of, or on behalf of, an organization, then the award will be made to the individual.

Abstract Phase

How will you know that an applicant has participated in a facilitated discussion?

There is a space in the abstract submission form to enter the two "code words" mentioned in the facilitated discussion.

Are tables/figures allowed? If so, do they count against the 3-page limit?

If you feel that a table or figure is critical to conveying your idea/responding to the questions, I think that would be fine to include. But yes, it will count against the page limit, which as we said, is very strict, so you'd want to take that into account.

Are footnotes permissible? What are the formatting rules?

Yes, footnotes are definitely permissible; 9-point font.

Can we hyperlink in the abstract?

It is fine to hyperlink, just keep in mind that judges will probably read the abstract in print format, and don't assume that they will click on those links. I.e., if it's important to your idea, you probably want to include it somewhere in the text.

Is it permissible to delete the questions from the template to provide a few more lines or are we supposed to keep the questions and keep the entire document, with questions, to three pages?

Yes, please do include the questions in your submitted abstract.

Should the proposal directly address the three questions, one at a time, and be numbered as such, or is the intent that the text of the proposal will respond to these three items throughout?

You should treat each question as a distinct one and answer them as such (knowing that there may be some fuzziness/overlap, so treat that content as flexible and put where you feel it fits best).

In terms of financial feasibility, how much detail do we need to outline in our abstracts and proposals?

At the abstract stage, we are really looking for the basics of your idea, and affirmation that it's actionable within the federal policy framework. The question in the abstract template (see the website to download) should help guide you, and if not, please feel free to email Elaine Weiss to follow-up. Recall that your abstract is limited to three pages. But if you already have a strong sense of the financial feasibility of your idea, you are free to include in your abstract.

Would proposals to reform SSI be considered under the Innovations Challenge or should we focus on OASDI?

Yes, proposals to change SSI are part of the Challenge, since SSI is a federal policy that is pertinent to retirement security.

Have additional questions? Please email Elaine Weiss (eweiss@nasi.org).

This page will be updated with additional procedural questions and answers. (Last update: March 26, 2019)