



The Greater Des Moines community is brimming with innovative minds and the nonprofit community is no exception. The Ignite Community Innovation Challenge is a grant award designed to encourage nonprofit organizations to re-think, re-frame, re-position and re-imagine how they carry out their missions. That's why we created Ignite.

Do you have an incredible idea scribbled on the back of a napkin, an awesome concept stuck in your head, or a nugget of inspiration you know could provide sustainable solutions to impact the greater good if you were just provided with the resources to implement it? With an Ignite Community Innovation Challenge award, what can be imagined can be made a reality. We believe providing the opportunity and encouragement to take risks can result in change that will ignite the work of nonprofits and the issues they are addressing in our community.

The Challenge

- We are looking for ideas to impact Central Iowa that are clear and innovative, create enhancements in practices, create a stronger focus on mission for the organization, have a viable chance of success and provide approaches that could be applicable to other organizations resulting in industry best practices.
- Submission timeline is May 9-July 15, 2016. The innovation Investors lengthened this timeframe to ensure the innovative concept has time to be vetted by the organization as part of a strategic vision for charitable work.
- Submitters are asked to provide brief responses to questions about the idea, its innovative nature, the issue being addresses and resources necessary to bring it to fruition. In addition, the Innovation Investors are looking for organizations that are committed to a culture of innovation in order to achieve their mission in Central Iowa.
- Innovation Investors will identify finalists in late August. From September-November each finalist will be provided a minimum of \$500 in development funding as well as opportunities to engage with community volunteers, entrepreneurs, Innovation Investors and others to refine their concept and prepare a pitch that best positions the innovative idea to launch.
- Finalists will be invited to make a pitch at a LIVE community event to a panel to sell their innovative idea. The event will take place on December 1, 2016.
- Based on the pitches presented, the community panel will name the winners of the Ignite Community Innovation Challenge.

The Awards

This isn't your typical grant program; after all, we aren't seeking typical ideas. This opportunity is being issued as a challenge with an anticipated top prize of up to **\$30,000** and a runner-up prize of up to **\$15,000**. All prizes awarded will be used to ignite the innovative idea and propel it forward.

2016 Ignite Innovation Investors:



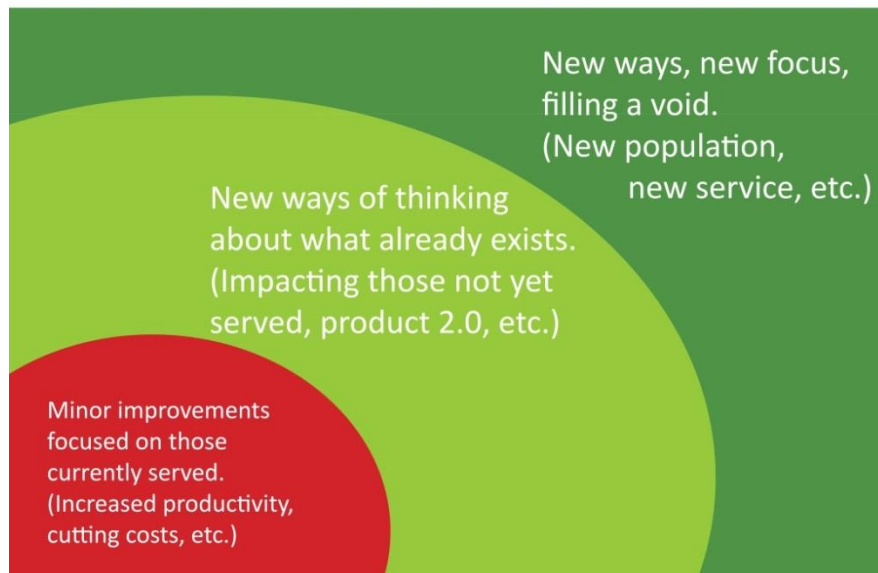


Considerations:

- Does the idea re-frame, reposition, or re-imagine how the issue is being addressed?
- Does the idea move past incremental innovation? Does it push past the same audience, cost cutting measures, or small changes?
- Does the idea present a real possibility of impacting the greater good?
- Could the idea be used as a best practice or ignite future innovation in the nonprofit field?
- Does the idea have some element of “wow” or “uniqueness” that is appealing and would bring positive attention to the nonprofit sector?
- Do the organizations involved have a commitment to innovation? Are they willing to engage in refining the concept through conversations, coaching and connections?
- Collaborations between a variety of organizations (for-profit and nonprofit), individuals, governmental agencies, academic institutions, and/or private sector organizations that are committed to innovation for the public good are encouraged to apply. Ultimately, each collaborative partnership must have a nonprofit 501(c)(3) engaged as the lead applicant.
- All winners must be willing to share the innovative idea with the community to encourage unique approaches to common problems.

Charting Innovation

The visual below provides a simple frame to illustrate the type of innovation being sought in the Ignite Challenge! Submitting ideas should reflect strategies in the green horizons and push beyond incremental innovation.



To learn more or apply for the Ignite Community Innovation Challenge visit www.desmoinesfoundation.org/ignite or contact Angie Dethlefs-Trettin at trettin@desmoinesfoundation.org or 515-244-0340.