



Frequently Asked Questions

Proposals

- **How are the proposals evaluated?**
Proposals are scored based on how well they address the five criteria outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP).
- **What project ideas or budget items would not qualify to be selected for the C3 program?**
Projects or budget items that do not identify how the Ford Fund monies are specifically utilized (ex. if the project had a total budget of \$200,000 what will the \$25,000 Ford grant specially fund), prototypes, or research projects.
- **May a university submit a previously submitted proposal?**
Yes, if the proposal is submitted in a new and innovative way.
- **If a university is a past winner of the Ford College Community Challenge, can they be identified as a winner again?**
Yes. The proposal for 2019 may build upon the previous winning project; however, it must approach the project in a new way.
- **Who will be notified if the proposal advances to the Top 20?**
The Project Lead(s) will be notified if the proposal advances. You may identify these contacts in the fields provided on the proposal submission template on the [Ford Blue Oval Network site](#).
- **Who should be identified as the Main Grant Contact?**
The Main Grant Contact should be the fiduciary at the college or university; this individual will be the main point of contact for the grant application and processing grant funds.
- **May our university submit more than one proposal?**
Yes.

Partners

- **May a university partner with another university to submit the proposal?**
Yes, a university may partner with another university as long as one university is located in the United States.
- **May the community partner be a local community or government entity instead of a non-profit organization?**
Yes.



- **May the project be international?**
Yes, this challenge is designed to benefit communities in need; however, applicants are encouraged to partner with local organizations as US projects are preferred.
- **May more than one college enter from a given university?**
Yes. Schools may also submit multiple proposals for different projects.

Student Involvement

- **What must the level of student involvement be in the project?**
A student, or team of students, must lead the project.
- **May student organizations apply?**
Yes, student organizations are encouraged to apply. Students and student organizations responding to the RFP must work with their college or university to gain their agreement to apply for, and serve as, the fiduciary organization for this grant. Proposals may be disqualified if the applicants do not explicitly inform the college or university of their application and fiduciary responsibilities.
- **May a student organization apply without faculty involvement?**
Yes, however students and student organizations responding to the RFP must work with their college or university to gain their agreement to apply for, and serve as, the fiduciary organization for this grant.
- **May recent graduates or students who will graduate during the implementation of the project apply?**
Recent graduates may not apply. Students who are currently enrolled but close to graduation may be involved in project implementation with the permission of the university and/or student and faculty leads.
- **If students are involved in leading pre-college programs, will these qualify?**
Yes. It is advised to make sure the project identifies a specific issue.
- **May teachers and professors be involved in the project?**
Yes, in most cases university faculty are involved in the project.
- **Should schools notify students in the Ford Blue Oval Network (students who have received a scholarship from Ford Motor Company, or who participate in a Ford-funded education program) of the opportunity?**
Yes. We encourage involvement of Ford Blue Oval Network members as part of the project teams.



Funding

- **May the University provide additional funding for the project?**
University funding is appreciated to continue the project longevity. Respondents to the RFP will outline the specific details regarding this information in their proposal.
- **May students apply the grant funds to tuition?**
No, the grant funds must only be used for costs associated with the project.
- **May students use the grant funds to purchase a vehicle?**
No, the grant funds must only be used for costs directly associated with the project.
- **May students be paid for their participation in the execution of the proposal?**
Yes, students may be paid. This would be an indirect cost. Project indirect costs should be no more than 15%.
- **May individual students receive the winning grant funds?**
No, individual students may not receive grant funding. Students and student organizations responding to the RFP must work with their college or university to gain their agreement to apply for, and serve as, the fiduciary organization for this grant.
- **What is the maximum allowable percentage for indirect costs overhead?**
Indirect costs should be no more than 15%. The costs must relate directly to the project. Ford will not pay general university overhead charges on any grant. Project-specific overhead charges exceeding 15% of the total budget will not be accepted.