Community Impact Pitch Challenge

an invitation to join our inaugural challenge

The Challenge

A pitch competition for faculty to address pressing, local, community-identified needs with a project partnership and budget of $10,000 to move the needle on the problem to some degree in one year.

Challenge Focus Areas

Community partners informed the challenge's 3 focus areas:



Affordable Housing & Homelessness



Youth Development



Mental Health, Trauma & Addiction Recovery

Your Invitation to Join

We are inviting community partners to help review project ideas, select the finalists, and identify any projects you're open to being a part of.

Timeline & Key Activities

REVIEW | January 2027 Review faculty project ideas in your chosen focus area, help select finalists, and flag proposals you are interested in joining.
MATCHMAKING | February 2027 Attend a matchmaking lunch to meet finalists. Faculty teams will then select their partner collaborators.
SUMMIT & PITCH | March 2, 2027 Faculty finalists deliver short, "Shark Tank"-style pitches at the 2027 Community Impact Summit. Winning teams receive $10,000 in project funding.
IMPLEMENTATION & SUPPORT | April 2027 - February 2028 Winning teams launch their initiatives. Non-funded teams interested in moving forward access partnership consulting and facilitation from the Office of Engagement. Senior engaged faculty provide mentorship on best practices for collaborative work.



The Summit Experience

Join us for the biggest Community Impact Summit in Purdue history on March 2, 2027.

Live Pitch Event

Three+ faculty finalists present their ideas live onstage at the Community Impact Summit in March.

A live panel of judges ask Qs and provide feedback.

One or more partnerships are selected to receive funding at the conclusion of the Summit.

Q&A

I don't know any faculty members. Can I participate? YES. This process is designed to help faculty who don't have community partnerships connect with possible project partners like you.

I already have a partnership with a faculty member. Can they apply for this funding? Probably not - this initiative is designed to catalyze new projects and new partnerships (or, for faculty with existing partner relationships, a proposal must demonstrate a significant deeper dive and greater measurable impact). While some of our other programs reward established partnerships, this one is about bringing new faculty collaborators to the table.

A Note from Our Team

This is a program pilot, so we're not entirely sure how it will go. But we're excited - and if you join us, we can guarantee we will be doing our best to ensure this initiative serves you!

Next Steps

To join as a community reviewer and potential partner:

- ☑ **Confirm approval from your organization's executive leadership.**
- ☑ **Sign up here.**