

Applicant Webinar
June 10, 2024
Questions Answered via Chat

Q1: Can you define "in progress"? Our project has started, but we are definitely in the beginning phase.

A: We require evidence of impact to qualify for the prizes.

Q2: Would you consider projects that reach youth up to and including age 17 but that also include a larger umbrella focus on "kids and families"?

A: Yes, as long as there is evidence of impact for our target population (youth up to and including age 17), this project is eligible to apply.

Q3: Would qualitative data suffice? Testimony?

A: Qualitative data is always interesting, and we also require evidence of quantitative data.

Q4: Are prizes intended to recognize existing work and support future iterations of the work or solely recognize existing work?

A: Our stated focus is on supporting work that shows evidence of impact; we also recognize that projects can grow and change. Prize winners will be expected to submit a written summary of their work and use of the prize monies after one year.

Q5: Would projects that have to do with shelters be considered for an *Indigenous Food Justice* prize? And how does the committee define "Indigenous"? I speak to a variety of Black and Brown groups who at times identify as this.

A: As long as the work meets our criteria, shelters do not disqualify a project. We are defining Indigenous people as American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or otherwise Indigenous in the U.S. or its territories.

Q6: Does the *Nutrition Education and School Food* category only apply to schools, or can afterschool programs that have nutrition education apply?

A: Afterschool programs that meet our criteria can apply.

Q7: If we have projects that would qualify in two categories, should we apply for both?

A: Organizations should submit only one application. If we think that your work fits better in another prize category, we will reassign your application to that category.

Q8: For nonprofits that are interested in applying to the *Nutrition Education and School Food* prize category, do we need to collaborate with schools?

A: Partnerships with schools are encouraged but not required.

Q9: We have some evidence of impact, but it is preliminary; do we need to demonstrate sustained impact?

A: We recognize that projects are at different levels of maturity. Evidence of sustained impact will increase an application's competitiveness, particularly regional or national impact in our policy prize category, but preliminary impact is acceptable for an application.

Q10: Can you expand what you mean by school food? Would only school districts/ culinary staff be able to apply for that category?

A: We think about school food more broadly, including innovative projects that support community-based direct service, ecosystem and community power building, and/or sustainable practices that drive enhanced nutrition education and/or nutritious school food.

Q11: How many organizations applied for prizes in 2023 and 2024?

A: There were approximately 180 applicants for H2HC's 2023 and 2024 Prizes for Innovation.

Q12: You mentioned organizations in the U.S., but do you have a particular geographic focus?

A: No, we are inviting applications from anywhere in the U.S.

Q13: Would you consider a project that trains and activates educators to impact children in nutrition and healthy eating?

A: Yes. We are not prescriptive about the methodology or proposed project other than the prize categories/issues noted.

Q14: Are the *Nutrition Education and School Food* prizes limited to school-related programs?

A: No; please see our response to Q10.

Q15: We have a nutrition education project that is based at our community centers, and (in some cases, but not all) in partnership with specific schools. Would it qualify for the *Nutrition Education and School Food* prize category?

A: Yes; please see our response to Q10.

Q16: Would a program that reaches 10,000 children annually in one county be considered for this, or is that too small of an impact relative to national programs?

A: Yes, assuming that the work meets our criteria, this cohort size is interesting.

Q17: Our organization provides multi-state school food and nutrition education programming. We also advocate for SNAP-Ed, an important policy for nutrition education. Would this work fit better in the first or second prize category?

A: We encourage you to consider a project's scale along with the other elements of our prize descriptions and criteria. Larger scale and wider evidence of impact may lend itself to our policy prizes.

Q18: Do you allow regranting?

A: We are awarding prizes rather than making grants, and the organizations doing eligible work should apply directly.

Q19: Can we co-apply with another organization?

A: As long as the project fits our eligibility criteria, joint applications are acceptable.

Q20: Will you consider national organizations as applicants if their project is place-based and in partnership with state partners?

A: Yes.

Q21: What if I have registered in JustFund in the past?

A: You can log back into your existing account to apply for an H2HC prize.

Q22: Is the required operating budget for the whole organization or the project or program for which we are applying?

A: We have asked for a board-approved operating budget for the organization; fiscally sponsored projects can submit a project-specific budget.

Q23: Should the Team Description narrative in JustFund describe the project team or the agency as a whole?

A: The team description should represent the work in your prize application.

Q24: Would you consider a project that trains and activates educators to impact children's nutrition and healthy eating? Or do applicants need to be doing the direct work of delivering nutrition programs to youth?

A: Yes; please see our response to Q10.

Q25: Is the H2HC prize application only available after we complete our profile?

A: Yes.

Q26: What are you looking for in the "Financial Need" section?

A: Add the prize amount you are applying for.

Q27: Is there a character limit within the text boxes?

A: The character count for the common applications fields is 15K. The character count for the supplemental questions is 50K.

Q28: How are the SMARTIE goals considered within the application?

A: We welcome evidence of potential future impact to strengthen an application. However, it is not sufficient for an application; there must be evidence of past work and impact.

Q29: We have a fiscal sponsor that has a board, but we do not have our own board. Should we submit our fiscal sponsor's budget, or ours even if we don't have a board? Our budget would not be "board approved" but would be much more accurate to the project.

A: Please see our response to Q22.

Q30: Do childcare centers and homes count as locations where nutrition education and/or school food is delivered/distributed?

A: Yes; there is no pre-determined restriction on location or the type of organization that is implementing the proposed work.

Q31: Are public universities allowed to apply, or should we use our fiscal sponsor? We have a university foundation that is a 501(c)3.

A: You need to apply via an organization with 501(c)3 status.

Q32: Are universities eligible to apply?

A: Universities are eligible to apply, but not all projects are eligible. For example, we will not fund major research projects. We would consider a partnership with a community organization.

Q33: Can a food service vendor apply for a school district?

A: Applying organizations must have 501(c)3 status (or be a school district or public school).

Q34: Will there be additional prizes awarded next year?

A: H2HC and Newman's Own Foundation are collaborating for this year to award a total of six prizes. We have not yet planned our collaborative prizemaking for future years. Both H2HC and Newman's Own Foundation have individual histories of prizemaking.

Q35: What if we are a food bank but operate a suite of nutrition education programs across our county? Are we able to apply for our nutrition education programs?

A: Yes; the comment about food banks is simply to emphasize the focus on more systems-focused change advancing health equity, not food distribution and direct service.

Q36: Can you please clarify the budget question regarding a school district? We are part of a district Food Services Dept. with a \$2M+ budget. This project will be a small subset of that budget that will be difficult to include in that larger board-approved budget.

A: Please attach a board approved budget where indicated and use your application to explain the budget for your project.

Q37: Can a smaller program be of interest if innovative? What if your program is smaller than other applicants?

A: All programs that meet the eligibility criteria are welcome to apply.

Q38: Can I edit and resubmit my application?

A: If your application has officially been submitted, you can still make adjustments to your attachments or swap them out (since the deadline date has not yet passed). However, your responses to the written supplemental questions are unfortunately locked at the point of submission. If there is additional information you'd like to include, you can add this as a new attachment.

Q39: If we still are somewhat unsure if our program would fit, is there someone we can chat with before investing the time/energy in the application?

A: Please review our website at <https://h2hcollaboratory.org/what-we-do/innovation-prizes-2025/>, and if there are still questions you may email info@h2hcollaboratory.org.

Q40: Do you recommend focusing solely on the prize categories or should we mention our additional initiatives? For example, we engage students in art and science in addition to nutrition education and gardening.

A: Yes, please restrict the application to work relevant to the prize categories.

Q41: Is your health equity focus limited to food/nutrition?

A: Yes, our primary focus is on innovative work that advances health equity.

Q42: If our mission statement mentions other initiatives can we still include that? Or does it need to be completely tailored to the prize categories?

A: Any project referenced in the application must meet our prize criteria. We recognize that applications may come from organizations involved in a variety of work.