

Each year the Competition focuses on one of the country's biggest challenges. For 2016, Pioneer Institute seeks innovative ideas to improve quality and access to care for individuals living with mental health illness through innovative approaches to insurance, health care, human services and partnerships between government agencies and mental health care providers. *You could win \$10,000 for your idea!*


How to Enter

Submit an idea paper of five or fewer pages describing the problem you're addressing and your solution. The "idea" can be a new concept or a recently implemented program that shows promising results. Be sure to touch briefly on the following elements:

- A description, with relevant background, of the problem to be addressed.
- An explanation of the proposed solution and how it will change current practice. If appropriate, cite examples of similar approaches that are currently in place. If possible, discuss the costs and benefits of your approach compared to current practice, potential obstacles to implementation, and the potential for replication in Massachusetts. Please note: Legal obstacles or the need for new legislation should not be considered barriers to entry. Also, we may seek further information regarding your proposal.

Applicants should submit proposals that

- Institute more effective early crisis intervention and youth preventive programs that promote awareness, improve access to resources for families and provide early screening, risk assessment, diagnosis and treatment to prevent the onset or mitigate crises in high-risk cases.
- Revise existing regulations to eliminate inter-agency barriers to information-sharing and improve access to patient data for practitioners and other stakeholders.
- Reform funding incentives to improve continuity of care in mental health services, integrate treatment in care settings and encourage practitioners to work with at-risk populations.
- Employ creative financing mechanisms to expand community health center options and facilitate improved quality and continuity of care in both inpatient and outpatient mental health services.
- Facilitate proven peer-led programs and services that help patients navigate complex health care bureaucracies and delivery systems.
- Provide support services for family-member caretakers and a means to transition to alternative care providers when family members are no longer able to provide services.
- Develop creative and comprehensive approaches to housing and employment programs, improving access and providing system support to dual populations, including the homeless and individuals living with mental health illnesses and substance use disorders.
- Improve mental health services in the criminal justice system, advancing "problem-solving" courts, promoting diversion and training in trauma-informed care in corrections and law enforcement agencies, and eliminating (or reducing) interruptions in care for parolees.
- **Other ideas?** The ideas outlined above are illustrative, and meant to stimulate your thinking. Submitters are not limited to the categories listed above. Feel free to focus your attention on your own idea for mental health reform.



The Better Government Competition is an annual idea contest that attracts the interest of experts and ordinary citizens alike. Since 1991, the Competition has served as a forum that rewards and promotes the nation's most innovative policy ideas. Implementation of the Competition's winning entries has saved Massachusetts well over half-a-billion dollars, and has driven numerous changes in state and federal policy.

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Entry Deadline

Papers of up to five (5) pages due by Monday, March 14th at 4:00 pm ET

Two Ways to Submit



Online

bgc.pioneerinstitute.org



Email

bgc@pioneerinstitute.org

include your paper as an attachment

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BGC Compendium & Awards Dinner

In late June 2016, winning entries will be published and distributed to policy makers and opinion leaders; awards will be presented at a dinner ceremony.

Questions?

Shawni Littlehale

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