

<https://www.citigroup.com/global/foundation/programs/global-innovation-challenge>

Send PI, ND collaborators and a 2 page (maximum) project overview that addresses the guidance below in one PDF document to [limited@nd.edu](mailto:limited@nd.edu) by 5 PM Eastern 3/13/23. Questions? Contact Sarah Forner at [sforner@nd.edu](mailto:sforner@nd.edu)

Internal Interest Date  
2023-03-13

Sponsor Deadline Date  
2023-03-22 to complete a registration form  
2023-04-05 for the completed application

### **Guidance for the project overview due by 5 PM Eastern 3/13/23**

Your internal application should address these questions:

- Which of the above 4 funding priorities aligns with your proposed research (food access, food affordability, food availability, or food resilience)? Describe the synergies you sense with this priority.
- What is your general project overview?
- What is your project's target geography?
- How is your project catalytic in nature? Does it support the piloting or expansion of ideas and projects in the field of food security? If yes, explain.
- How does the project reduce the financial burden of food for low-income families and communities and increase community resilience?

### **Additional Background on Funding & Selection Priorities** (from the RFP FAQs)

For this RFP, the Citi Foundation will prioritize projects in four areas: Access, Affordability, Availability, and Resilience, with the end goal of investing in programs that aim to improve access to food for low-income communities, reduce the financial burden to vulnerable families, and increase community resilience. In addition, the Foundation seeks to support a diverse portfolio of grantees that are committed to inclusion and sustainability as defined by their local contexts.

#### **1. Enabling Food Access**

Across the world, nonprofit organizations are on the front lines working to meet the needs of a growing number of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity and the economic strain of overall household expenses. The Challenge seeks to support community-based NGOs to improve or scale direct access to food. Programs could include (but not be limited to):

- Providing technical assistance to strengthen existing food initiatives operated by community-based organizations, including support for new partnerships or coalitions to improve food access

- Innovative programming to leverage existing small, local grocery stores and/or neighborhood-based farmers' markets to improve low-income communities' access to food
- Supporting the creation of toolkits, courses, and educational resources to embed food initiatives into existing programs already reaching low-income communities, such as housing, financial inclusion, workforce, educational, and health programming.

## 2. Addressing Food Affordability

With record food prices and soaring energy costs, people globally face high costs, which make it difficult to afford food. This is particularly true in low income countries where people spend almost half of their income on food. The Challenge seeks to support community finance efforts that enable low-income individuals and communities to address the affordability of food, thereby reducing their financial burden. Programs could include (but not be limited to):

- Pilots involving community financing to raise income opportunities (e.g., direct cash assistance, microloans, debt management and reduction, household and food budgeting)
- Providing technical and financial assistance to food retailers and food enterprises working in low-income communities to offer affordable and nutritious food
- Improving awareness of and streamlining enrollment into government support programs

## 3. Improving Food Availability

One of the six key strategies to address food insecurity in the 2022 UN State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report is to reinvent the supply chain to lower the cost of food, particularly by shortening supply chains in urban areas so that residents can access fresh food. The Challenge seeks to support innovative solutions or pilots that could address challenges in the food supply chain while also catalyzing positive community benefits, such as spurring the creation of new jobs and businesses. Programs could include (but not be limited to):

- Providing resources and capacity building to community-based food delivery organizations
- Providing access to storage solutions to prevent food waste
- Developing mobile applications, open data sources, interactive maps, and other technologies to enhance the efficiency of local food supply chains

## 4. Supporting Community Resilience

The growing frequency and intensity of natural disasters and conflict, along with an increasingly volatile world, is jeopardizing the entire global food system. The potential harm to lives, livelihoods, and quality of life can be reduced by implementing strategies to manage disaster-related risks. The Challenge seeks to support communities to more effectively prepare for and respond to crises that disrupt food security, ensure a secure

food supply for the future, and make communities more resilient to food related external shocks. Programs could include (but not be limited to):

- Supporting new or expanded collaborations for preparedness and planning, including coordination of rapid-response efforts
- Developing tools and/or resources that help communities improve their resilience by setting priorities and allocating resources to manage risks for their prevailing hazards