



Resilient New Orleans Innovation Challenge

Frequently Asked Questions

Do applicants need to be based in New Orleans to be eligible?

FNO is interested in creating economic growth in New Orleans, which will come from both ingenuity within the city, but also by building external partnerships and attracting innovation to the city. One of the reasons we teamed up with Elemental was due to their global network and quality of entrepreneurs they are connected to. In short, while FNO is looking for solutions that are home grown and have been deployed in New Orleans or similar urban environments, it is not required and innovation is welcomed from all over.

Is this challenge only for new construction or can it apply to existing buildings?

The Resilient New Orleans Innovation Challenge is only focusing on land that will be developed for new construction. Future challenges may include existing buildings.

What is the final vote by judges based on?

Challenge winners will be evaluated based on five criteria: Scalability and Risk, Team Experience & Fit, Product & Solution, Market Fit & Product Differentiation, and Environmental & Social Impact. We will also ask community members to rank the finalists as an input to capture local interest and engagement in the process.



What does the process of deployment look like once winners are chosen? What is the timeline of deployment for the pilot projects?

This process is still being developed. Right now it looks like once winners are chosen, an architect and developer will be chosen and a budget will be created and matched with a suitable lot. The finance authority will finance the first developments. The whole goal of this first phase is to actually implement the technology that is implemented and chosen by this Innovation Challenge. As for the timeline, the team hopes to break ground within the next 6 months.

Can you confirm if this is targeting single family and if so would we be working directly with the homeowners or is there a program manager that would act as a point person for vendors? What about manufacturing? Can we expect or request assistance locally?

There is a partnership with a community development organization which will be leading up homeowner training to liaise the suite of products that FNO has to support homebuyers. There will be a program manager that does the liaising, though this will not be the focal point for the innovators. The focal point for the innovators is working with the designers and developers on implementing the product/solution in the development. In terms of the sale of the home, there will be a liaison between FNO and the many stakeholders on the project.

As for manufacturing, FNO is hoping to provide local manufacturing partners, as well as financing tools and opportunities, to ensure that products and solutions can be developed and deployed.



What local development opportunities will winners of the Resilient New Orleans Challenge have access to?

Finance New Orleans offers a range of public financing tools and resources, which will allow Challenge winners to access tax exempt debt and property and sales tax exemptions that create economic benefits, thus improving the sustainable and resilient infrastructure in the city of New Orleans. Additionally, FNO is committed to community engagement through workforce development initiatives and fostering collaboration with local, small manufacturers to produce sustainable goods.

With the focus on single family homes for this challenge, should multifamily solutions submit for this round?

Yes- there is an opportunity for solutions to apply that are applicable to both multifamily and single family homes. We don't want applicants to self-select out, rather, the team would love to review your application and see if it is applicable to this particular round of investing that FNO is doing. FNO would love the opportunity to take a look at the technology and be considerate about how each unique solution can be deployed within developments. This is meant to be the start of a much larger process, and there are creative ways to do single and multi family blended housing.

I think there are architectural solutions to this problem. could a submission be something like a replicable building design or a kit of parts for a building that can be repeated on various sites?

As part of initial outreach, FNO has learned that there are a number of eligible solutions for the challenge including innovations of the home building process. FNO is open to submissions that are focused on the design-build component.



Can architects partner with mechanical, plumbing, civil, and electrical engineers for solutions?

Yes, absolutely. Finance New Orleans wants to cast a wide net, and understands that some of the solutions that are put forward will require collaborations between folks with different areas of expertise. The more thoughtful folks can be about how the deployment of the solution might be in concert with the other professionals would be extremely useful and interesting.

Do you have any established relationships with Entergy for pilot programs in solar energy?

Entergy is one of Finance New Orleans' partners. The FNO team and Entergy are working on deepening their partnership and are working together on the solar energy pilot program.

Will there be a better appreciation of the value from avoiding emissions from energy efficiency? If a passive house results in using 85% less energy there is less power required and therefore generated, reducing expenses for occupants.

Yes! One of the 5 criteria is Environmental and Social Impact. If there is a product or solution that reduces emissions but also reduces cost to make it more affordable, that would be an ideal product to take a look at.

If you do not win, how do you get on the RFP list as an architect?

Architects and developers can apply for the RFP/RFQ once it starts.

Are the houses going to be rented or bought?

There will be a single family for-sale product.



What would the process look like for a proposed idea that requires a larger scale mock-up?

For products and solutions are for multifamily developments, while this challenge is geared toward single family homes, FNO has a number of developments in the region in its portfolio that may be a fit for larger scale mock-ups and technology that expands past single family homes to a larger scale.

Can we collaborate with another company? Specifically, would we be able to co-apply for this grant with a company that offers a complementary solution to ours?

Applicants are able to collaborate and co-apply with another company for the challenge. If you are co-applying, please highlight how the two solutions will work together to solve the challenge problem statement, and what the value is of implementing the solutions together. Please only submit one application.

How do we think about the \$220K per unit budget? How much money can we expect to receive per unit?

This answer is contingent upon Phase II of the Challenge (Design RFP), and depends on what solution is chosen.

By when do we need to have the solution ready to be installed? How long is the build/construction process?

Winners of the challenge must be able to provide technology for one site by Fall 2024/Early 2025, and to deploy within 5-6 sites within 2025.

What kind of design will the homes be? How many rooms, and what's the sq footage?

The homes will be single-family homes with the standard footprint of 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, between 1,300 - 1,500 sf.