



# Community Engagement Challenge



Win over \$20,000 in cash prizes!  
Apply by July 1st at [gnome.org/challenge](https://gnome.org/challenge)

The GNOME Foundation, in partnership with Endless, is proud to announce the inaugural Community Engagement Challenge, an exciting new opportunity to engage beginning coders with the free and open-source software (FOSS) community. Our goal is to encourage individuals or teams to submit stimulating ideas that will connect the next generation of coders to the FOSS community and keep them involved for years to come.

This three-part challenge offers up to \$65,000 in cash prizes and other rewards to the winners of each phase. Entries will be expected to show:

- Phase One: Idea; written proposal with entry description and team background
- Phase Two: Proof of Concept
- Phase Three: Sample Product

For additional information about the challenge, please see below or visit [gnome.org/challenge](https://gnome.org/challenge)

Questions? Please email us at [cechallenge@gnome.org](mailto:cechallenge@gnome.org)  
or visit our [FAQs](#)

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## Statement of Need

Universal access to software engineering education and training has been identified as deficient in many areas. For several years, our community, like many others in the free and open-source software sector, has struggled to attract and maintain the number of high-quality developers required to drive the GNOME project forward at the pace we would like. This has been amplified by the rise of web frameworks and the popularity of developing on macOS as a platform, as well as the continued failure to diversify the engineering pool away from white males.

### Statistics show this trend is increasing\*:

- 64.5% of engineers do not contribute to open-source projects more than once a year, compared to 55.5% last year.
- Only 25.6% of developers use Linux as their primary operating system.
- 91.7% of engineers identify as male, and 70.8% as white or of European descent.

We believe that addressing these issues is key to ensuring the long-term success of free and open-source software on the desktop and that the GNOME Foundation is in a unique place to be able to guide and mentor people in their career path.

## What are we looking for?

This challenge seeks entries that will introduce beginning coders to the FOSS community, help improve their coding skillset and support their FOSS community engagement for years to come.

To be eligible, all entrants must submit a completed written proposal with program and entrant information in English.

### Technical Criteria:

- FSF or OSI approved license
- Ability to be used in an open-source environment
- Strongly preferred: As a challenge that promotes free software participation it is highly encouraged that the entry utilizes free software and/or is open to be used in a free software environment.

### Creative/Design Criteria:

- Fun: Makes coding interesting and participating in the FOSS community exciting
- Educational: Enhances the coding skills of a beginning coder
- Engaged: Keeps a coder engaged with the FOSS community
- Creative: Outside of the box entries are appreciated
- Unique: Adds something new to the field or enhances something already existing

Notice we didn't say what your entry had to be! This isn't your standard request for an application. We want you to think of something fun! Educational! Engaging! Creative! Unique!

### Phase One: Idea

- Completed written proposal (in English) which includes concept and individual or team background
- Graphics/images/supplemental material is encouraged but not required

### Phase Two: Proof of Concept

- Basic prototype to demonstrate feasibility/achievability

### Phase Three: Final Project

- Deliverable end product which demonstrates program goals

## Who can enter?

The requirements to participate include:

- Entries accepted by all, except where excluded by law. For more information please see our [terms and conditions](#).
- Entries may be submitted by individuals or teams; diverse teams encouraged!

## Who should my entry target?

- Beginning coders
- Ideally high school and college students (ages 16 – 25)

## What will happen to my IP rights?

- Entrants will retain full IP rights for their submission and agree to share their final products publicly under a free and open-source license.

## What are the prizes?

Cash Prizes will be awarded as checks or bank transfers from a US bank. Please consult your Country's laws regarding taxes and prize collection.

### Phase One: Idea; up to 20 winners

- \$1000 prize per selected entry
- Server space to store entry
- Invitation to present the idea at an upcoming event (event TBD)
- Invitation to participate in Phase Two

### Phase Two: Proof of Concept; up to 4 winners

- \$5,000 prize per selected entry
- Invitation to present the idea at an upcoming event (event TBD)
- Invitation to participate in Phase Three

### Phase Three: Final Project;

- 1st place - \$15,000
- 2nd place - \$10,000
- Invitation to present at upcoming events
- Budget to attend an award ceremony at GUADEC for one team member

Entrants will have access to an online forum to communicate with other entrants and participation is strongly encouraged. Phase Three participants will have access to industry mentors. Please note the Code of Conduct must be followed at all times and any violation could result in disqualification.

GNOME Foundation reserves the right to add additional prizes or categories should it be deemed appropriate. Please see terms and conditions for full rules and contest conditions.

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## About the GNOME Foundation

The GNOME Foundation is a non-profit organization that furthers the goals of the GNOME Project, helping it to create a free software computing platform for the general public that is designed to be elegant, efficient, and easy to use. For more information about the GNOME project and the GNOME Foundation, please visit [gnome.org](https://gnome.org).