

Mask Innovation Challenge: *Building Tomorrow's Mask*

BARDA and NIOSH have developed a multi-phased mask innovation challenge that seeks to support the development of novel mask designs. In Phase 1, BARDA and NIOSH are soliciting innovative and effective designs for mass-producible, general-use, low-cost per use masks for the general public that provide enhanced protection from respiratory diseases (e.g. COVID-19) and can be used out of the box. Phase 2 will focus on development and laboratory testing of a prototype.



TOTAL PRIZE PURSE FOR PHASES 1 & 2: \$500,000

Phase 1: Ideation

- Up to 16 semi-finalists will be selected
- 10 winners will receive up to \$10,000

Phase 2: Prototyping

- Up to 5 winners will be selected, winning up to \$75,000
- Launch date TBD

PHASE 1 JUDGING CRITERIA FOR DESIGNS

Feasibility – Submission demonstrates a reasonable rationale for the design of the mask, intuitive design that can be used without fitting or prior training, and contains components that are easily accessible.

Innovation. Submission advances the state of the art in filtration efficacy, comfort, and utility of masks used by the general public.

Barriers. Submission addresses barriers and limitations of currently available masks and proposed innovations are based on scientific and technical merit.

Design and Desirability: Submission demonstrates how the proposed solution meets the needs of the

Challenge Goal

To improve the comfort, utility, and protective factor of available masks, as well as the sustainability, that are used by the general population and, as a result of these changes, increase the level of trust and adherence to mask use among the American public.

Key Dates for Phase 1

- Submission period begins: March 31, 2021
- Submission period ends: April 21, 5:00 p.m. ET
- Awardees announced by: June 1, 2021

Registration link

[BARDA Mask Innovation Challenge: Building Tomorrow's Mask](#)

Public Information

Session: 4/5, 2-3pm ET

- [Public Info Session](#)