



GRAND CHALLENGES IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The National Academy of Public Administration envisions a government that works and works for all. Government should provide equality of opportunity; promote the principles of citizenship and civic life; be both idealistic and pragmatic; anticipate and build consensus; and inspire and empower citizens.

To achieve this vision, we must focus on WHAT is challenging our government and HOW our government can address those challenges.

We are seeking wide input across the country from everyone interested in improving government—including students, academics, and practitioners at all levels of government and in the nonprofit and private sectors—in order to identify Grand Challenges in Public Administration.

We invite you to join the conversation by identifying challenges in our society that require better governance, along with challenges that impede effective and efficient government.

What Are Grand Challenges?

The Grand Challenges in Public Administration are the most compelling issues that government needs to address over the next decade, both from a programmatic and an operational standpoint.

They:

- Are large in scope (inter-agency, intersectoral, intergovernmental, and multi-disciplinary);
- Require significant innovation and long-term commitment (at least a decade);
- Seek to achieve worthwhile, ambitious goals that we know will be challenging to address successfully;
- Require paradigm shifts in thinking and/or significant change in government functioning; and
- Have significant individual, governmental, and societal impacts.

The Grand Challenges will serve as a foundation for galvanizing action across the public administration community.

KEY QUESTIONS

What Government Must Do

Question 1: Over the next decade, what is a grand challenge that government (federal, state, and/or local) must address in order for American society to reach its full potential? This challenge may be in the area of (1) science, technology, and innovation; (2) equity and inclusion; (3) security and resilience; (4) economic development and fiscal sustainability; (5) individual well-being; or (6) other.

How Government Should Do It

Question 2: Over the next decade, what must the field of public administration do to ensure that government has the managerial, operational, and leadership capacity required to deal with the most important challenges facing the United States? This challenge could be in the area of (1) strategy; (2) intergovernmental relations; (3) intersectoral relations; (4) planning; (5) workforce; (6) budgeting; (7) civic engagement; (8) institutional design; or (9) other.

Submission Guidelines: How to Enter

- You may submit a response to one or both questions.
- You may submit multiple ideas.
 - Submit each idea using a separate online form.
- You may submit individually or with a team.
- You must complete the online form for the question you wish to address.

SELECTION PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS

The Grand Challenges in Public Administration initiative is a great opportunity to help identify the biggest issues that American government at all levels needs to address over the next decade. Our vision is for these challenges to motivate across the public administration community the development of collaborative efforts between universities, all levels of government, good government groups, and other private and non-profit partners to focus on particular challenges and drive toward effective solutions. We also intend that they promote new areas of research and capacity development.

Please submit your idea for consideration by April 15, 2019. The submissions will be reviewed and ranked based on such criteria as:

- Significance, ambition, scope, and scale of the challenge;
- Long-term nature of the challenge;
- Potential societal and governmental impacts of addressing the challenge;
- Opportunity for interagency, intergovernmental, international, and public-private partnerships to effectively address the challenge.

We may contact submitters in early 2019 to gain additional insights and address any questions based on the review.

We will announce the final set of Grand Challenges in Public Administration at the Academy's November 2019 annual meeting, as well as on our website and in other publications.