



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION®

1600 K Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

Phone:(202) 347-3190 Fax:(202)821-4728
www.napawash.org

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Contact: Betsy Holahan bholahan@greatpointstrategies.com

National Academy of Public Administration Launches “Grand Challenges in Public Administration” *Year-Long Initiative Seeks to Identify Challenges & Facilitate Solutions*

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Academy of Public Administration today launched its new “*Grand Challenges in Public Administration*” initiative, a year-long effort to identify the top challenges facing government over the next decade and facilitate efforts by the public administration community to find new solutions.

“Today’s government too often finds itself in reactive mode, struggling to adapt to the rapidly-evolving environment of the 21st century,” said Teresa Gerton, President and CEO of the Academy. “However, with great challenges come great opportunities. The *Grand Challenges in Public Administration* initiative is designed to identify what is challenging our government and also how our government can address those challenges. Then we can begin a process that motivates concrete action across the public administration community aimed at solving these problems. *Grand Challenges* is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to develop and drive an agenda for our government over the next decade, so we encourage everyone to have a voice.”

The Academy seeks input on *Grand Challenges* from public administration practitioners, academics, students, interest groups, and the general public on two key questions: First, what problems must federal, state and local government address over the next decade for American society to reach its full potential? Second, how must management at all levels of government improve to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of public programs?

Input and ideas can be submitted to the Academy on its [Grand Challenges website](#) through April 30, 2019. Then the *Grand Challenges* Steering Committee, comprised of distinguished representatives from the public administration, scientific and media communities, will conduct a systematic analysis of the public’s ideas and announce a final set of *Grand Challenges* at the Academy’s annual meeting in November 2019.

The announcement of the top *Grand Challenges* is designed to begin a long-term process that jump-starts specific and integrated action across the public administration community aimed at solving these problems. The defined challenges are likely to have a

significant impact over the next decade, initiating experimentation, testing and evaluation to identify and pilot real solutions. They may result in new collaborative efforts between universities, government, good-government groups, and other private and non-profit partners.

In addition, new governance structures and processes grounded in multi-disciplinary, multi-sector alliances could be developed to deliver flexible, responsive, technologically adept and accountable programs. Education and training programs could be updated to help aspiring administrators build entrepreneurial skills that can be applied within existing and emerging bureaucratic structures. Social safety net programs could be modernized to address the reality of economic dislocation in the 21st century. And universities could lead new areas of research and development to help understand what works and determine how to build managerial capacity.

To learn more about the *Grand Challenges in Public Administration* initiative and submit feedback and ideas, visit the [Grand Challenges website](#).

About the National Academy of Public Administration

Chartered by Congress to provide non-partisan expert advice, the Academy is an independent, non-profit, and non-partisan organization established in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations. Learn more at www.napawash.org

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