

CCSI INNOVATOR FAQ

1. INTRODUCTION:

Thank you for your interest in the Christian Collective for Social Innovation (CCSI)! Through CCSI, social innovators and entrepreneurs from around the world are engaging with like-minded individuals who are actively solving the world's most pressing and complex issues. Innovators will connect to a marketplace defined by Christian values that emphasizes transformational relationships and provides access to capital, know-how, peers, and publicity. This year's focus is on solving the education crisis in Central and South America.

2. IMPORTANT 2021 DATES:

March 31	Round 1 Application Submission Deadline
April 1-April 21	Round 1 Judging
April 30	Announcements and Feedback (semi-finalists continue to Round 2)
May 21	Round 2 Application Submission Deadline
May 24-June 11	Round 2 Judging
June 18	Announce Finalists and Mentoring Teams (finalists continue to Round 3)
June 21-July 14	Round 3 Coaching and final pitch preparation
July 29	Live Presentation Event and Awards
August 1-Sept 15	Post award mentorship and implementation preparation
October 1	Implementation support begins for selected innovations

3. WHO CAN APPLY?

Any innovator with knowledge of the educational challenges facing Central and South America due to COVID-19 or other circumstances, and who has a solution to the challenge is encouraged to apply. Spanish and English will be the supported languages throughout CCSI 2021. Innovators may be in the very early stages of solution development, actively testing their solution, or looking to expand. Innovators may be independent, part of a registered for-profit organization, part of a not-for-profit organization, or working in an NGO. While CCSI is led by people who profess Christian faith, innovators of any religious faith or no religious faith are encouraged to apply. Compassion International and Baylor University staff are not eligible to participate. However, Baylor faculty and students are eligible (in accordance with university policy).

4. IS THERE A FEE TO APPLY?

No. Innovator application to CCSI is free and no payment will be required throughout the CCSI process.

5. WHAT LANGUAGES ARE SUPPORTED?

The first year of CCSI is open to innovators who speak Spanish or English. We want to make CCSI accessible for people who have first-hand knowledge of the challenges being addressed in Central and South America. Therefore, translation services will be provided throughout the CCSI experience to help build understanding and cross-cultural awareness. CCSI will match innovator finalists to mentors later in the process who speak a common language or provide translation services. The final competition event will be an engaging experience for Spanish-speaking and English-speaking participants.

6. WHAT ARE THE AWARDS?

Awards¹ will be provided for the top finalists after three rounds of judging. Awards up to US\$25,000 are available and may vary based on context of the innovation and capacity of the innovation teams. In addition to cash awards, innovators will benefit from networking with leading thinkers in the areas of impact investing, social innovation, and relief and development. Winners will also receive an opportunity to participate in a more intensive mentorship accelerator program over the summer. This will allow social innovators to plan for increased growth at scale and qualify for a chance to work with Compassion's program staff and local church partners across Latin America or even the world (at the discretion of Compassion International).

7. HOW DO I APPLY?

Applying is easy and only takes about 20 to 30 minutes. You can access the [application form here](#) (in Spanish & English). In the application you will share your understanding of the education challenge in Central and South America and the solution you've designed. You will also have the opportunity to upload photos or share web links that describe your solution. If you are chosen to enter the second round of judging, you will be asked to upload a short 3-minute video along with additional details about your solution.

8. WHAT IS THE JUDGING CRITERIA AND PROCESS?

Judging will be based on effectiveness in the Central and South America context, sustainability in the target market, and holistic outcomes for children and youth based on [Compassion's outcomes framework](#). Judging will occur in three rounds. Dates for each round can be seen in the "Important Dates" section of this FAQ.

¹ Awards will take the form of unrestricted financial support. Applicants must have a bank account with a registered financial institution in their home country. Awards will be subject to any national or international transaction and taxation laws.

9. WHAT GUIDANCE DO YOU HAVE FOR INNOVATORS?

- Solutions should work for low-income communities in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and/or Bolivia.
- Innovations can apply to any of three educational settings: remote, remote/classroom hybrid, and/or physical classroom.
- Innovations should address the holistic nature of children: physical, socio-emotional, cognitive, and spiritual.
- Consider how innovations would fit in local economies and cultures to produce market-driven sustainability
- Provide special attention to educational access for children with disabilities, gender equity, and child safety.
- Solutions can be focused on any person in the educational system including teachers, parents, students (5-18), and support staff.
- Innovations may be high-tech, low-tech, or no-tech.

10. IS TRAVEL REQUIRED TO BE PART OF CCSI IN 2021?

No. In the CCSI 2021 experience, there will not be any travel required due to pandemic restrictions and in order to assure the safety of innovators, judges, and mentors. All collaboration and events will be held in an online virtual format.

11. WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM SELECTED AS A SEMI-FINALIST?

Semi-finalists will have made it through the first judging round and will complete a more detailed application. If you are chosen to enter the second round of judging, you will be asked to upload a short 3-minute video along with additional details about your solution. If you do not advance to the next round, you will receive useful feedback on why and what you can do to improve your solution for the future.

12. WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM SELECTED AS A FINALIST?

Finalists (5 to 10 are expected in year 1 of CCSI) will be invited into a coaching program held over a four-week period to prepare for the final CCSI judging event in the summer of 2021. In this coaching program, you will be paired with a mentor to help sharpen the innovation presentation in advance of the final judging round. Using virtual collaboration tools (e.g. email, video conferencing, etc.) mentors will review the applicant's draft submission materials and help them develop the clearest and most impactful case for their innovation.

13. WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM A WINNER?

Winners will receive cash awards and be invited to continue the innovation experience through these steps:

- Join the inaugural cohort of CCSI winners for networking
- Invited to a mentoring program that lasts six weeks where your solution or business design can be further developed and your product enriched.
- Have the opportunity to be introduced on Baylor and Compassion social media channels.
- Have the opportunity to be showcased in future CCSI events.
- May receive innovation deployment support by Compassion in Central and South America (at the discretion of Compassion International)

14. IS MY INNOVATION TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL?

All submitted information is deemed the property of the participating teams. All CCSI judges and staff are professionals who understand the need for confidentiality. However, they do not sign any non-disclosure agreements to participate in this competition. Teams are strongly encouraged NOT to provide any specifics or details that are considered to be intellectual property or the key to intellectual property. There will be no penalty in judging when a question or issue is not fully addressed because of concerns over confidentiality. In addition, YouNoodle, the competition platform, has its own confidentiality policies. Teams should review those when agreeing to use YouNoodle.