

1 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
2 Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO)  
3 **Announcement of Requirements and Registration for the “KidneyX: Patient Innovator**  
4 **Challenge”**

5 Authority: 15 U.S.C. 3719  
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7 The Kidney Innovation Accelerator (KidneyX) is a partnership between the U.S. Department of  
8 Health and Human Services (HHS) and the American Society of Nephrology (ASN). This  
9 document announces the requirements and registration for a prize competition: the KidneyX  
10 Patient Innovator Challenge, funded by the National Kidney Foundation (NKF). Prize  
11 competitions challenge individuals, communities, businesses, institutions, and non-profit  
12 organizations, among others, to achieve defined goals in a defined timeframe. The Patient  
13 Innovator Challenge seeks ideas and fixes that people living with kidney diseases have  
14 developed through their own everyday experiences and ingenuity.  
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16 **Patient Innovator Challenge dates:**

17 Submission Period Begins: August 1, 2019

18 Submission Deadline: 5:00 pm EDT, September 16, 2019

19 Winners Announced By: March 26, 2020  
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21 Sections of this announcement:

- 22 A. Background
- 23 B. Subject and Scope of Prize Competition
- 24 C. Prize Competition Structure
- 25 D. Submission Requirements, Judging Criteria, Eligibility, and Intellectual Property Rights  
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28 **A. Background:**  
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30 HHS, ASN, and NKF believe that people living with kidney diseases have important knowledge  
31 and experience that can help us find better ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat kidney  
32 diseases. Many patients, across a wide range of diseases and conditions, have invented their  
33 own fixes that have then been more widely adopted by the patient community. For example,  
34 innovations created by patients have led to a better method for cystic fibrosis patients to clear  
35 their lungs; a way for breast cancer patients to shower without the risk of infection; and a  
36 better way for celiac disease patients to record, monitor, and manage their symptoms.  
37 Similarly, care partners<sup>1</sup> have developed important solutions, such as a parent who designed a  
38 harness allowing a child with cerebral palsy to walk with adult assistance or a grandchild who  
39 developed a wearable sensor to track the movements of his grandfather who has Alzheimer’s  
40 disease.

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<sup>1</sup> By this term we mean anyone who helps another with health, wellness, and caring—including but not limited to families, friends, and formal and informal caregivers.

41 Unfortunately, our healthcare system generally cannot easily test, validate, and scale patient-  
42 designed innovations. Thus, it is likely that many ideas from patients and care partners are  
43 missed, or at least not spread and shared as widely as they should be. With this prize  
44 competition, funded by NKF, KidneyX hopes to recognize innovative ideas and solutions that  
45 people living with kidney diseases can create.

46

#### 47 **B. Subject and Scope of Prize Competition:**

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49 The Patient Innovator Challenge asks patients and care partners for ideas on how to improve  
50 therapeutic options and quality of life for people living with kidney diseases. The goal of the  
51 prize is to gather and share new approaches and possibilities with the nephrology community.  
52 HHS, ASN, and NKF are asking participants for both solutions that they have already developed  
53 and for their ideas for possible solutions. We use the term “solution” broadly here: this  
54 competition seeks any method or fix that will help people living with kidney diseases. In general  
55 terms, this could include (but is not limited to) ways to improve health and relieve symptoms,  
56 ways to make daily life easier, ways to reduce the cost of care. Potential areas to consider  
57 include:

58

- 59 ○ Managing side effects of treatment (e.g., fatigue, insomnia, cramping)
- 60 ○ Tweaks or fixes that helped promote independence
- 61 ○ A diet/fluid regimen that worked particularly well
- 62 ○ Approaches/methods that have successfully sustained family and social life
- 63 ○ Techniques/behaviors that have increased physical activity
- 64 ○ Approaches to improve quality of life

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#### 66 **C. Prize Competition Structure**

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68 Prize submissions will be submitted and judged based on two categories:

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70 Category 1: “Solutions in Practice,” which are solutions already tried or put into practice.

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72 Category 2: “New Ideas,” which are solutions that have not yet been created or tried.

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74 Submissions will be judged in comparison to the other submissions in their category (i.e., a  
75 Category 1 solution will only be compared with other Category 1 solutions, not Category 2  
76 solutions). Participants may submit more than one solution in either or both Categories for this  
77 competition.

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79 The submission period for this prize competition opens **August 1, 2019**, and closes at 5:00 pm  
80 EDT on **September 16, 2019**. Submission requirements and judging criteria are discussed in

81 Section D, below. At the end of the submission period, judges will review submissions and an  
82 authorized official will select up to 25 winners: up to 10 winners in Category 1 will receive  
83 \$4,000 each, while up to 15 winners in Category 2 will receive \$2,000 each. The total prize pool  
84 for the KidneyX Patient Innovator Challenge is \$70,000, and prize money will be paid by NKF.  
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86 Winners may also be invited to speak or share solutions and ideas at events like the KidneyX  
87 Summit. Winning ideas, as appropriate, will be shared on the KidneyX.org website. Information  
88 deemed proprietary will not be shared.

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90 **D. Submission Requirements, Judging Criteria, Eligibility, and Intellectual Property Rights**

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92 **Submission Requirements**

93 Complete instructions for submission can be found at [kidneyx.org/compete](http://kidneyx.org/compete).  
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95 Submissions, which will be used to determine winners, will be submitted in written format and  
96 submitted through the submission site at [kidneyx.org/competes](http://kidneyx.org/competes). Submissions should be no  
97 more than 2 pages, 8.5 x 11 inch page, 10-point font or greater and one inch margins. Although  
98 not required, participants may indicate whether they believe their solution should be in  
99 Category 1 (Solutions in Practice) or Category 2 (New Ideas). HHS and ASN reserve the right to  
100 re-categorize entries. Submissions will be considered in only one category; a submission will  
101 not be considered in both categories.  
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103 Submissions must include a publicly shareable abstract limited to 100 words. By submitting an  
104 abstract, all Patient Innovator Challenge participants automatically agree to allow this abstract  
105 to be published on the KidneyX.org website. No proprietary information should be included in  
106 the abstract.  
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108 Participants may, but are not required to, submit supplemental documents as part of their  
109 submission—such supplements must be visual in nature (e.g., diagrams, pictures, and links to  
110 videos).  
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112 All reviewers and judges, as well as all HHS, ASN and NKF staff involved in the review of  
113 submissions will be required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement prior to receiving access to  
114 the submissions. However, submissions should also clearly delineate any Intellectual Property  
115 (IP) and/or confidential commercial information contained in a submission that the participant  
116 wishes to protect as proprietary data.  
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119 **Judging Criteria**

120 A multi-disciplinary panel will select winners for this prize competition. Judges will review  
121 submissions in two categories: Category 1 (Solutions in Practice) and Category 2 (New Ideas).  
122 Submissions will be judged only against the other submissions in their category.  
123

- 124 *Evaluation criteria that judges will use:*  
125 ● Creativity and novelty of the solution  
126 ● How feasible it would be for patients and/or care partners to use this solution  
127 ● How much impact the solution would have for patients and/or care partners  
128 ● Significance of the problem being addressed  
129 ● [Solutions in Practice category only] Level of impact the solution has had on the  
130 participant's life

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132 **Amount and Payment of the Prize**

133 For the Patient Innovator Challenge prize competition, the National Kidney Foundation is  
134 offering \$70,000 in total prize money. ASN, HHS and NKF will select up to 25 winners: up to 10  
135 winners in Category 1 will receive \$4,000 each, and up to 15 winners in Category 2 will receive  
136 \$2,000. Prize money will be paid by NKF. All funding will comply with the Internal Revenue  
137 Service withholding and reporting requirements, where applicable.

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139 **Eligibility Rules**

140 To be eligible to win a prize under the KidneyX: Patient Innovator Challenge prize competition,  
141 an individual or entity—

- 142 (1) Shall have registered to participate in the prize competition;  
143 (2) Shall have complied with all the requirements set forth in this announcement for  
144 participation in this prize competition;  
145 (3) For prize money from HHS - In the case of a private entity, shall be incorporated in and  
146 maintain a primary place of business in the United States, and in the case of an individual,  
147 whether participating singly or in a group, shall be a citizen or permanent resident of the  
148 United States. Note: Non-U.S. citizens and nonpermanent residents can participate as a  
149 member of a team that otherwise satisfies the eligibility criteria but will not be eligible to win a  
150 monetary prize (in whole or in part); however, their participation as part of a winning team, if  
151 applicable, may be recognized when results are announced;  
152 (4) May not be a Federal entity or Federal employee acting within the scope of their  
153 employment (all non-HHS federal employees must consult with their agency Ethics Official to  
154 determine whether the federal ethics rules will limit or prohibit the acceptance of a KidneyX  
155 prize);  
156 (5) Shall not be an HHS employee;  
157 (6) Federal grantees may not use Federal funds to develop submissions unless consistent with  
158 the purpose of their grant award; and  
159 (7) Federal contractors may not use Federal funds from a contract to develop KidneyX prize  
160 competition applications or to fund efforts in support of a KidneyX prize competition  
161 submission.

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163 **Additional Requirements**

164 An individual or entity shall not be deemed ineligible because the individual or entity used  
165 Federal facilities or consulted with Federal employees during a competition if the facilities and  
166 employees are made available to all individuals and entities participating in the competition on  
167 an equitable basis.

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169 Each individual (whether participating singly or in a group) or entity agrees to follow all  
170 applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies.

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172 Participants must also agree to assume any and all risks and waive all claims against the Federal  
173 Government, ASN, NKF and their related entities, except in the case of willful misconduct, for  
174 any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits, whether direct, indirect, or  
175 consequential, arising from their participation in this prize contest, whether the injury, death,  
176 damage, or loss arises through negligence or otherwise.

177  
178 Participants are not required to obtain liability insurance or demonstrate financial  
179 responsibility in any specified amount for claims by a third party for death, bodily injury, or  
180 property damage or loss resulting from an activity carried out in connection with participation  
181 in a prize competition, but are encouraged to consult with their advisors with respect to the  
182 level of insurance that is prudent for each participant. Registered participants agree to  
183 indemnify the Federal Government, ASN, and NKF against third party claims for damages  
184 arising from or related to prize competition activities, and further indemnify the Federal  
185 Government, ASN, and NKF for damage or loss to Government, ASN, and NKF property,  
186 respectively resulting from such activities.

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188 HHS reserves the right to cancel, suspend, and/or modify this prize competition, or any part of  
189 it, for any reason, at HHS's sole discretion. HHS reserves the right not to award any prizes if no  
190 entries are deemed worthy. ASN and NKF may also discontinue their participation in the prize  
191 competition at their discretion. If ASN and/or NKF elects to discontinue participation, every  
192 effort will be made to announce that decision promptly on the KidneyX.org website.

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194 **Intellectual Property (IP) Rights**

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- 196 • Participants are free to discuss their submission and the ideas or technologies that it  
197 contains with other parties, are encouraged to share ideas/technologies publicly, are  
198 encouraged to collaborate or combine with other teams to strengthen their solutions,  
199 and are free to contract with any third parties. Participants should be aware that any  
200 agreement signed or obligation undertaken in regard to their participation in this prize  
201 competition that conflicts with the prize competition rules, terms, and conditions may  
202 result in disqualification of the participant's submission.
  - 203 • By participating in this prize competition, each participant (whether participating singly  
204 or in a group) warrants that he or she is the sole author or owner of, or has the right to  
205 use, any copyrightable works that the submission comprises, that the works are wholly  
206 original with the participant (or is an improved version of an existing work that the  
207 participant has sufficient rights to use and improve), and that the submission does not  
208 infringe any copyright or any other rights of any third party of which participant is  
209 aware. In addition, each participant (whether participating singly or in a group) and each  
210 entity grants to HHS an irrevocable, paid-up, royalty-free nonexclusive worldwide  
211 license to reproduce, publish, post, link to, share, and display publicly (e.g., on websites)

212 the abstracts on the web or elsewhere. Each participant will retain all other intellectual  
213 property rights in their submissions, as applicable. To participate in the prize  
214 competition, each participant must warrant that there are no legal obstacles to  
215 providing the above-referenced nonexclusive licenses of participant rights to the federal  
216 government. To receive an award, winners will retain ownership of their intellectual  
217 property rights in the solution, but must grant to the federal government the  
218 nonexclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid up license to practice, or have practiced  
219 for or on its behalf, the solution throughout the world for federal purposes. Each  
220 participant also warrants that the work is free of security threats and/or malware.

- 221 • Each participant must clearly delineate any Intellectual Property (IP) and/or confidential  
222 commercial information contained in a submission that the participant wishes to  
223 protect as proprietary data.
- 224 • All materials submitted to the kidneyx.org/competes website as part of a submission  
225 become HHS, ASN and NKF records. Any confidential commercial or financial  
226 information contained in a submission must be clearly designated at the time of  
227 submission.
- 228 • If the submission includes any third party works (such as third party content or open  
229 source code), the participant must be able to provide, upon request, documentation of  
230 all appropriate licenses and releases for use of such third party works. If the participant  
231 cannot provide documentation of all required licenses and releases, HHS, ASN, and NKF  
232 reserve the right, at their sole discretion, to disqualify the submission.

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234  
235 **For Further Information Contact:** Ross Bowling; ross.bowling@hhs.gov; 202-260-7158.  
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237  
238  
239 7/11/19  
240 Date

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243 Ed Simcox, HHS Chief Technology Officer  
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