

Center for Neighborhood Technology Urban Sustainability Tech Challenge 2019



For over seven years, CNT Urban Sustainability Tech Challenge has brought people across Chicago together to identify urban sustainability issues and devise community-driven solutions. The theme of the 2019 Challenge is the high cost of living experienced by low-income people. In countless ways, it costs more to live when you earn less money – in terms of financial services, water bills, transportation costs, car insurance prices, flooding damage, and more. Using a collaborative community-based approach, stakeholders will work together to develop a path to cost-of-living solutions that could provide immediate benefits to communities in Chicago. CNT's data scientists will help students understand how to acquire, apply, and manipulate data to better understand and address cost-of-living issues in their community, applying real-world data to create potentially new, real-world solutions.

Through December 2019, CNT is seeking corporate partners to support a STEM education program for Chicago young adults. CNT seeks gifts of up to \$5,000 to support nonprofit partners participating in the Challenge.

Participating in the Tech Challenge will see corporate partners enjoy:

- Engagement if desired directly with teams of students from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), contributing expertise and advice, and helping students devise and communicate what solutions could benefit Chicago's low-income communities.
- Connection to idea leaders at CNT and community partners Austin Coming Together (ACT), Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI), and Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School. Each community partner will receive \$1,000 from the corporate partner grant to help cover participation costs.
- Attendance and recognition at a final presentation will be held on December 10th, 2019, with a 5.30pm reception and 6.30 presentation, hosted by the Motorola Solutions Foundation at the Motorola Solutions Innovation Center in Chicago, with associated publicity and media outreach.

Partners will help CNT achieve two key outcomes: 1) advancement of an understanding by students of data science and its real-world implementation, helping to guide a new generation of STEM practitioners, and 2) an evidence-based research effort with proposed solutions that drives attention to an urban sustainability cost-of-living issue, setting the stage for future action. Partners have identified issues of absentee landlords, water shutoffs, and street vitality and safety as areas of research.

For more information on this opportunity for a community-first, rewarding engagement supporting STEM data science education, local community-based organizations, and Chicago communities as a whole, please contact Paul Cusimano, pcusimano@cnt.org, 773.269.4029.

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