

# Prosperity Through Equity Solutions Challenge FAQ

## About Us

Thomas P. Miller & Associates (TPMA) was founded in 1989 and provides expert consulting services throughout the United States-- working with local and state governments, workforce development boards, higher education institutions, and industry associations. We provide integrated solutions to grow the economic and social value of communities.

## 2021 Prosperity Through Equity *Solutions Challenge*

We know that changing the status quo in our communities involve identifying the problems, pinning the best ways to solve them, and then working until a functional solution is in hand. To conclude the [Prosperity Through Equity](#) initiative, TPMA is starting a Solutions Challenge, an innovative and collaborative approach to solving rural America's most pressing tasks. We invite organizations, practitioners, and community champions to submit their unique solutions that address one of the top 5 challenges identified:

- Challenge #1: Access to affordable quality housing
- Challenge #2: Access to broadband internet
- Challenge #3: Access to living-wage jobs
- Challenge #4: Access to childcare
- Challenge #5: Access to reliable transportation

## What is the Timeframe?

The Solutions Challenge will launch on October 23rd, 2021, #NationalMakeADifferenceDay and remain open until January 31<sup>st</sup>.

By February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 a winner with the most compelling solution will be contacted and awarded a grand prize of \$5,000 for being a thought leader and advocate as we strive for economic recovery. Participants can submit their unique solutions [here](#).

## Why is this Important?

The pandemic impacted rural America at a disproportionate rate compared to Urban counterparts, yet rural communities have significantly less resources to address the issues and implement quality, proven solutions—putting them behind in recovery. In an effort to provide timely, creative, and impactful solutions – TPMA is calling on professionals, practitioners, students, and anyone interested in helping rural America design transformative solutions that can be duplicated across the country.

### **What Should Submissions Include?**

Submissions should be no longer than 2 pages in length in a word document and should cite sources to data or research where possible. Solutions should not be aimed at benefiting any one business or industry. Submissions must include:

- Which of the 5 challenges you are addressing
- A clearly defined solution
- What partners should be involved? How will they be involved?
- How could the solution be funded
- How it is scalable

### **Who can Submit a Solution?**

The Solutions Challenge is open to everyone!

### **Where can Participants Submit?**

Participants should submit their solutions [here](#) by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

### **When will the Winner be Determined?**

A winner will be determined and announced by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We will contact the winner according to the contact information submitted, and highlight the winning solution in a comprehensive press campaign.

### **Who is Determining the Winner?**

An appointed panel of industry experts from across the country will be established to serve as judges. The panel will score submissions based on its effectiveness in addressing the challenge.

If you have questions, contact Steven Gause at [sgause@tpma-inc.com](mailto:sgause@tpma-inc.com).