

## UNITED WE THRIVE

Community is powerful. When neighbors and businesses come together around a common goal, they can be unstoppable.

Frontier Communications, DISH and our partners are investing in your power and potential. We're calling on communities to show us why you're America's Best: connected to your sense of place and committed to its economic vitality. Demonstrate your entrepreneurial spirit and we'll help make your vision a reality. The towns that achieve tangible economic impact will vie for cash prizes of up to \$3 million.



## ELIGIBILITY

### Qualifying Communities

- Municipalities must be located within one of Frontier Communications Service Areas in 27 states. Enter your hometown's name on the Home page under the "Has your city applied?" field to check if your community is eligible to apply
- Municipalities must have a population greater than 9,500 and fewer than 80,000 residents. Applicants will be asked to cite official census data to confirm that their community meets the population requirement
- Municipalities with fewer than 9,500 residents may partner with other geographically adjacent municipalities (that also meet the above requirements). The total population in the contiguous combined area must remain greater than 9,500 and fewer than 80,000. Individual or combined municipalities with a population greater than 80,000 are not eligible
- Only one application will be accepted per community
- Please contact [info@americasbestcommunities.com](mailto:info@americasbestcommunities.com) if you have questions about your



community's eligibility

## Applicant Teams

- Applications must be submitted by an Applicant Team that is led by a local community organization. Please review the Official Rules for the eligibility requirements governing the lead local community organization
- Applicant Teams must be composed of cross-sector organizations that represent the municipality
  - Examples of other possible team members are local businesspeople, local government officials, and change agents, such as members of Chambers of Commerce, Small Business Associations, Rotary or Kiwanis Clubs or even local church and neighborhood groups
  - Teams must demonstrate local government support by submitting a letter of support from the mayor or equivalent elected leader of the municipality
- Each team must include three to five businesses that will benefit from the team's public-private partnership
  - These local businesses should be able to serve as a barometer for the community benefits that will result from the projects and programs proposed in the application. (For example, a local business might demonstrate that additional jobs were created as a result of a project proposed in the Community Revitalization Plan.)
  - Local businesses identified by the Applicant Team should:
    - Have the intention, knowledge, and products or services to reach new markets outside of the local community; and/or
    - Set the goal of improving opportunities for local markets resulting in additional employment and other benefits within the local community

For complete eligibility rules and definitions, please see Section 4 of the [Official Rules](#).



## PRIZES

### FROM VISION TO REALITY

The America's Best Communities Prize Competition will take place over three years, with multiple opportunities to win support for your city's future.

### QUARTER-FINALIST ROUND

#### PRIZES

Up to 50 Quarter-Finalists will receive:

- \$35,000 and support to bring their plans to life, to define their vision and to develop a plan to put into motion
- A GoPro camera to share their stories along the way

#### REQUIREMENTS

- Complete a Community Revitalization Plan focused on economic development
- Obtain \$15,000 of community matching funds
- Present a 6-month budget outlining the use of cash award and community matching funds
- Create a budget proposal of \$100,000 for possible 11-month implementation of the Community Revitalization Plan
- Complete a Winner's Agreement that meets the requirements for this round of competition
- In addition, to the extent possible, at least half of the selected Quarter-Finalists will represent rural communities across the Frontier Communications Service Area.

### SEMI-FINALIST ROUND

#### PRIZES

Up to 15 Semi-Finalists will receive:

- Invitation to the America's Best Communities Summit where the strongest plans will be presented to the judges
- Airfare and accommodation for up to three Applicant Team members to present their plans



## REQUIREMENTS

- Attend America's Best Communities Summit
- Provide a public 15-minute presentation of their Community Revitalization Plan to a panel of esteemed judges
- Complete a Winner's Agreement that meets the requirements for this round of competition
- In addition, to the extent possible, based on the submissions, at least half of the 15 Semi-Finalists will come from rural communities.

## FINALIST ROUND

### PRIZES

- Up to 8 Finalists will be awarded \$100,000 to bring their plans to life
- In-kind awards from the ABC Prize sponsors
- 11 months to implement the tactics outlined in the Community Revitalization Plan

## REQUIREMENTS

- 10 unedited, raw GoPro video content uploads documenting project progress
- 3 quarterly updates indicating progress on their plan, including metrics and expenditures
- Final report capturing progress made during the 11-month time frame
- Commit to storytelling over the implementation period of 11 months, including press releases, press events, and more
- Complete a Winner's Agreement that meets the requirements for this round of competition

## WINNER ROUND

### PRIZES

- 3 Grand Prize winners will receive the following cash awards:
  - First Place: \$3 million
  - Second Place: \$2 million
  - Third Place: \$1 million
- An original outdoor mural depicting the vibrancy and resiliency of their community painted by a locally identified artist
- A sign identifying the city as an America's Best Communities winner



## REQUIREMENTS

- Commit to 12 additional months of storytelling, including press releases, press events, and participation in other PR opportunities, and to share best practices with other US communities
- Complete a Winner’s Agreement that meets the requirements for this round of competition

## JUDGING CRITERIA

The America’s Best Communities Prize Competition encompasses four selection rounds.

### QUARTER-FINALIST ROUND CRITERIA

Up to 50 Quarter-Finalists will be selected from the initial pool of applicants based on their ability to demonstrate the greatest potential for revitalization, relative to other applicants. They will be scored using a 12-point scale on the following criteria:

<b>CONTEXT &amp; COMMITMENT (3 points)</b>	<b>COMMUNITY IDENTITY (3 points)</b>	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (3 points)</b>	<b>VISION &amp; IMPACT (3 points)</b>
Articulates the opportunities and challenges facing the community; demonstrates a commitment to implementing processes to create real change	Highlights the community's unique geographic and social assets, including arts, recreation, culture, and education; outlines a vision for enhancement in these areas	Details current initiatives and outlines future economic development activities that could attract, retain and grow the local population	Provides a clear vision for the community's future, including the infrastructure, resources and relationships needed to reach the desired result for community revitalization

### SEMI-FINALIST ROUND CRITERIA

From the pool of Quarter-Finalists, up to 15 Semi-Finalists will be selected who scored highest on a 12-point scale, relative to other applicants, based on the following criteria:

<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (4 points)</b>	<b>LONG-TERM VISION &amp; STRATEGY (4 points)</b>	<b>SHORT-TERM TACTICS (4 points)</b>
Brings together diverse constituents that comprehensively represent the community to contribute to the visioning, planning and implementation processes	Provides a clear vision for the community's social and economic future, identifying the infrastructure, resources and relationships needed for sustainable community revitalization	Proposes an 18-month plan that clearly outlines individuals and groups responsible for achieving milestones and creating deliverables

### **FINALIST ROUND CRITERIA**

Up to 8 Finalists will present their Community Revitalization Plans that best convey potential community revitalization impact. They will be chosen based on the following criteria that align with the Semi-Finalist requirements:

<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (4 points)</b>	<b>LONG-TERM VISION &amp; STRATEGY (4 points)</b>	<b>SHORT-TERM TACTICS (4 points)</b>
Brings together diverse constituents that comprehensively represent the community to contribute to the visioning, planning and implementation processes	Provides a clear vision for the community's social and economic future, identifying the infrastructure, resources and relationships needed for sustainable community revitalization	Proposes an 18-month plan that clearly outlines individuals and groups responsible for achieving milestones and creating deliverables

### **WINNER ROUND CRITERIA**

Each community will leverage the cash award, as well as their own community's resources, talents and other assets to achieve progress within the 11-month period. Three winners will be selected from the pool of up to 8 Finalists that score highest on a 12-point scale based on the following criteria:

ACHIEVEMENT OF SHORT-TERM TACTICS (4 points)	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (4 points)	SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION (4 points)
Successful completion of the projects and programs in the Community Revitalization Plan implemented during the previous 18 months.	Ongoing engagement of community members and groups in the implementation of Community Revitalization Plan activities	Identification of specific and tangible community and regional benefits that have resulted from delivering on the projects and programs identified in the Community Revitalization Plan.

Factors the judges will consider when evaluating the beneficial impact on the community and the region include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Ability to attract new businesses or increase investment in the community
- Adjusting to and overcoming national and regional economic trends
- Short- and long-term job creation
- Improvements to small-scale local infrastructure (e.g., Wi-Fi availability, lighting improvements, event venues, signage)
- Improvements to educational/technical training opportunities for the community and the region
- Impact on availability and affordability of housing
- Improvements to the overall legal and regulatory environment to promote sustainable revitalization for both small and large businesses (e.g., zoning, business licenses, land banking)
- Successful leveraging of federal and regional resources
- Creative responses to challenging economic and geographic hurdles
- Successful leveraging of public/private partnerships
- Communities selected as Quarter-Finalists and beyond will receive full information about the commitments and rules attached to the prize packages.

To learn more about the eligibility, prizes, judging criteria and more, please visit the [Official Rules](#) page.