2024 LEAP Challenge

LEAP

Project Host Application Clinic
April 10, 2024

We will begin momentarily.
This session will be recorded.

Solve team

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LEAP

MIT Solve + the Jacobs Foundation

Solve is an initiative of MIT.

We launch open calls for exceptional and diverse solutions to the most pressing global challenges, from anyone, anywhere in the world.

The Jacobs Foundation seeks to improve children's learning and education by promoting the generation and translation of evidence into policy and practice.

As part of its 2030 Strategy, Jacobs Foundation supports the world's leading researchers and practitioners to understand how children learn and vary in their skills and behaviors. The Jacobs Foundation strengthens research and collaboration in both schools and educational technology (EdTech) to promote evidence-based practice.

LEAP

What is LEAP?

LEAP pairs education organizations (**LEAP Project Hosts**) with a team of expert researchers and social entrepreneurs - **LEAP Fellows** - who lend their expertise to the organization for a 12-week part-time sprint (**a "LEAP project"**), providing them with **tailor-made research recommendations** that inform the organization's approach to strengthen the evidence base of their solution.

Social Entrepreneur Fellows

Education Organizations ("Project Hosts")

Researcher Fellows

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Eligibility requirements for Project Hosts

- Education organization (non-profit, for-profit, or hybrid models).

- Solution (a product or program) that aims to improve learning outcomes for **children ages 2-12.**

- Serve learners in **Sub-Saharan Africa** or **Latin America.**

- Solution is in the **pilot** or **growth** stage of development.

  - **Pilot:** The solution has been launched in at least one community, but is still iterating on design or business model. If for-profit, is generally working to gain traction and may have completed a fundraising round with investment capital. (Often 10+ users/direct beneficiaries).

  - **Growth:** An established solution available in one or more communities with a consistent design and approach, ready for further growth in multiple communities or countries. If for-profit, has generally completed at least one formal investment round (Seed stage or later). If nonprofit, has an established set of donors and/or revenue streams.

LEAP

Benefits of serving as a LEAP Project Host

- Partner with **a team of 3-4 researcher and social entrepreneur Fellows** who apply their knowledge and skills to support your education solution's evidence journey;

- A final report that details tailor-made **research recommendations** (study designs, strategies, frameworks, and/or monitoring and evaluation tools) that inform your approach to strengthen the evidence base of your education solution;

- Professionally-managed **project facilitation provided by MIT Solve**, allowing you to focus solely on the most critical elements of the 12-week project;

- Valuable **networking** opportunities across the global cohort of LEAP Fellows and Project Hosts;

- A **$5,000** stipend to the Project Host organization to compensate for time spent hosting the LEAP Project.

LEAP

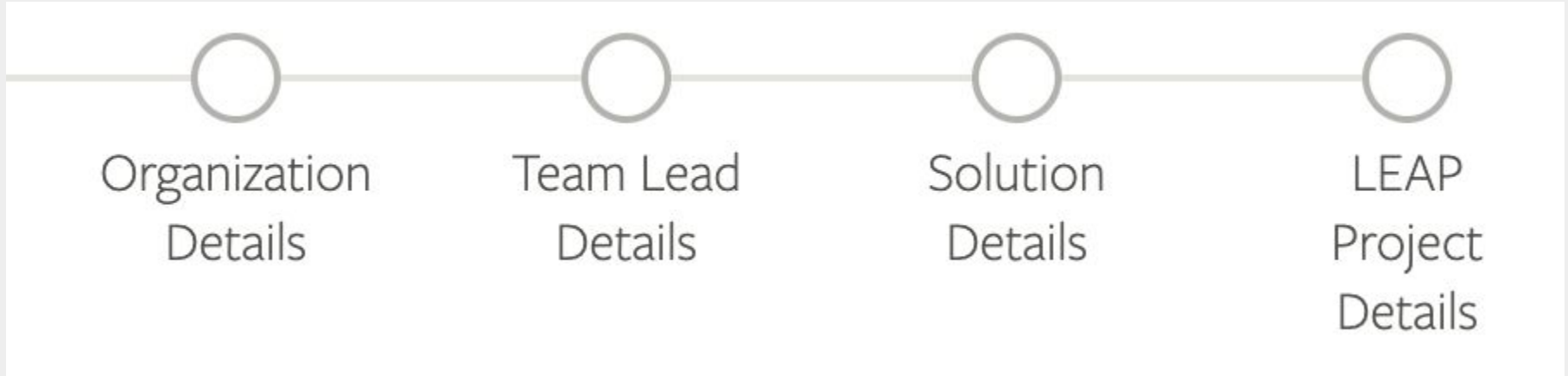# LEAP in practice: Successful Project Hosts

- Openness and humility to your assumptions being challenged and tested.

- Flexibility to potentially rethink your original research questions.

- Collaborative engagement with your Fellow team.

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Application advice

Application: Evaluation criteria

- **Alignment**

- **Partnership Readiness**

- **Evidence Understanding**

- **Research Aims**

- **Project Feasibility**

- **Potential for Impact**

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Application: Sections

Solution Details

Where would you place your solution on Nesta's Standards of Evidence? (Required)

Please review Nesta's Standards of Evidence. The evidence level that you place your solution will not impact your score. Rather, this information helps reviewers understand your best assessment of the solution's current evidence base.

○ Level 1: You can describe what you do and why it matters, logically, coherently and convincingly.

○ Level 2: You capture data that shows positive change, but you cannot confirm you caused this.

○ Level 3: You can demonstrate causality using a control or comparison group.

○ Level 4: You have one + independent replication evaluations that confirms these conclusions.

○ Level 5: You have manuals, systems and procedures to ensure consistent replication and positive impact.

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Solution Details

To date, what research/studies has your organization conducted or commissioned that have helped demonstrate the effectiveness of your solution? [300-500 words recommended] (Required)

You may choose to organize your response around research methods that help establish evidence of effectiveness:

- **Foundational research** (literature reviews, desktop research)
- **Formative research** (e.g. usability studies; feasibility studies; case studies; user interviews; implementation studies; process evaluations; pre-post or multi-measure research; correlational studies)
- **Summative research** (e.g. impact evaluations; correlational studies; quasi-experimental studies; randomized control studies)

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Solution Details

What has the data collected from the research/studies revealed about your solution and how did it inform your work moving forward? [300-500 words recommended] (Required)

LEAP

LEAP Project Details

Describe your organization's need to strengthen the evidence base of your solution. [300-500 words recommended] (Required)

Please make sure to explain why now is the right time to engage in a LEAP Project.

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LEAP Project Details

What are 2-3 research questions that you would like your LEAP Project to help you answer? [100 words recommended] (Required)

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LEAP Project Details

Please elaborate on your selection above by describing your desired outputs of the 12-week LEAP Project sprint. [300 – 500 words recommended] (Required)
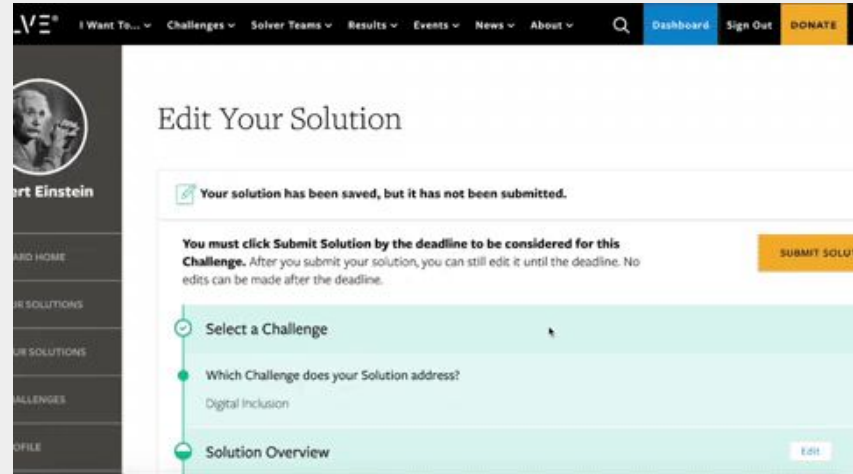
Outputs are Fellow-produced research recommendations (study designs, strategies, frameworks, and/or monitoring and evaluation tools) that inform your approach to strengthening the evidence base of your solution. Keep in mind when describing your desired outputs that LEAP Projects take place over only 12 weeks with approximately four LEAP Fellows each working 6-10 hours per week.

LEAP

Completing your application

- To submit your application, you need to complete any question marked **Required**.

- The application will not automatically save! You need to hit "Save draft & exit".

- Your session will automatically expire after 2 hours. Don't forget to always save!

- Pay attention to character, word, and file limits.

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Collaborating with colleagues

1. You can add other team members to your application if you want to tackle the application as a team.

2. Each team member will need an account on the Solve platform.

3. To add, go to Edit Application. Search for your team Member.

4. The Team Lead should be the person who will represent your application throughout selection.

LEAP

Submitting your application

Edit Your Application

Rachel C.

DASHBOARD HOME

EDIT YOUR SOLUTIONS

VIEW YOUR SOLUTIONS

OPEN CHALLENGES

YOUR PROFILE

Thank you for submitting your solution. We look forward to reviewing your Challenge application.

If you'd like to make changes, you may edit your Application until the deadline. You do not need to resubmit—just click Save Application & Exit if you make any changes and they will be automatically reflected.

VIEW YOUR SUBMITTED APPLICATION

✓ Select a Challenge ⊖

Which Challenge does your Application address?

Unbundle Policing: Reimagine Public Safety Challenge

Application - Page 1 of 2   Edit ⊖

Timeline

March - April 2024

Challenge Launch

- Apply to host a LEAP Project on Solve's open innovation platform.
- Applications are due on April 30, 2024.

May - July 2024

Select Winning Teams

- Judges select up to 20 Finalists.
- Finalists practice and record pitches with peer Finalists and Solve.
- Finalists participate in virtual Interview Day Q&A session with Judges.
- Judges select 10 Winners.

August - September 2024

Orientation & LEAPathon

- Winners attend a virtual Orientation.
- Winners attend a virtual LEAPathon to meet LEAP Fellows, engage in project refinement sessions, and match with up to four Fellows.

September - December 2024

Wave 1

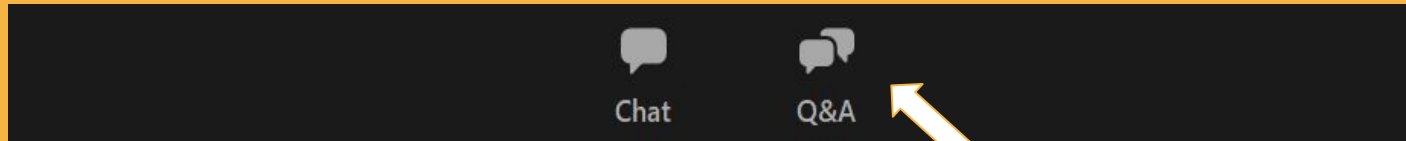- Five LEAP Projects take place (12 weeks).

January - April 2025

Wave 2

- Five LEAP Projects take place (12 weeks).

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Q&A

Questions?

Please put them in the Q&A Zoom feature

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Q&A

- **I am interested in applying to one of Solve's Global Challenges, am I still eligible to apply for LEAP?**

  - *Yes, you can apply to Solve's Global Challenge and LEAP. Both Challenges are reviewed independently and advancing in one of the Challenges does not hinder or help your chances in advancing in the other Challenge.*

- **Will there be any in-person requirements to participating in LEAP?**

  - *No, all required LEAP programming will be virtual (Zoom, Slack, email).*

- **Can my organization submit more than one application/LEAP project for consideration?**

  - *We want your best LEAP project, so please only submit one application.*

- **What is the prerequisite financial status of the applying organization?**

  - *To be eligible to host a LEAP Project an organization must be an independently registered organization (for profit or non-profit) or have a fiscal sponsor who is eligible to receive funds on behalf of the applicant.*

LEAP

Q&A

- **What are the LEAP areas of focus?**

  - *Eligible LEAP Project Hosts are education organizations with learning solutions that aim to improve learning outcomes for children ages 2-12 in Sub-Saharan and Latin American countries. The solution can be anything from an Ed-Tech product to a program that trains teachers.*

- **What is the scope of these projects?**

  - *LEAP Projects will take place over a 12 week sprint, staffed with 3-4 Fellows working 6-10 hours/week. The application asks several questions for you to detail your LEAP Project, so keep this in mind when outlining your desired outputs.*

- **I want to know at what depth or level of solution you are expecting. For example, I have a product that is currently used by one teacher to teach 10 students. Can I still apply?**

  - *It sounds like your solution is in the Prototype stage of development, which is not eligible for LEAP support. To be eligible for LEAP, your solution has to be in either the pilot of growth stage. Please see how those stages are defined in the FAQ.*

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Q&A

- **Since we work with partner schools, would the Fellow team be willing to pilot or test some approaches within selected schools?**
  - *LEAP is intended to be a virtual program and there is no expectation that Fellows visit you in person. Although it's not common, if LEAP Fellows are based near you or are traveling near you there might be a possibility of them visiting the schools where you are implementing the recommendations.*
  - *Depending on the focus and needs of your project, Fellows may be interested in holding virtual workshops or focus groups with your staff or beneficiaries.*
- **What additional documents should an organization prepare for the application?**
  - *There are a few documents we ask you to upload as part of your application. An organizational chart that illustrates your staff capacity as well as your organization's Theory of Change or Logic Model are required.*
  - *It is optional to upload your organization's operating budget in document form, however it is required to answer what your organization's operating budget is.*
  - *If you are selected as a Project Host, you will be sharing documents and data with your Fellow team in order for them to carry out your project.*

LEAP

For more information, please visit or contact us at:

Visit: https://solve.mit.edu/LEAP

Contact:
For questions pertaining to the platform and submitting your application:
Help Desk:
help@solve.mit.edu

For general questions pertaining to the Challenge:

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