City of Saskatoon Smart Cities Challenge Proposal

Questions & Answers

What is the Smart Cities Challenge and how is Saskatoon involved?
The Government of Canada is challenging communities of all sizes to come forward with their best ideas to improve the lives of their residents through innovation, data and connected technology. In April 2018, Saskatoon submitted an initial proposal and has now been selected as one of the finalists for a chance to win $10 million to be used for implementing all aspects of our proposed plan. As a finalist we are now working to develop a fully-implementable proposals that outline all design, planning, and project management components; and formalizing partnerships with organizations that will help implement the proposed plan. The final proposal is due in early 2019.

What is Saskatoon's Smart Cities Challenge statement?
To be the city that breaks the cycle of Indigenous youth incarceration by creating a new cycle focused on building purpose, belonging, security and identity.

Why did we choose this challenge?
People are being left behind, many of them are youth, and many of them are urban Indigenous youth. Urban Indigenous youth face multiple challenges that are rooted in intergenerational trauma, racism, and a disrupted relationship with cultural and spiritual traditions, all of which have a deep impact on their sense of identity, purpose, belonging and security.

This is manifesting itself in an escalating cycle of crime that results in Saskatoon having a youth incarceration rate that is double the national average.

The cycle of crime and social exclusion is resulting in millions of dollars being spent to warehouse people in facilities where instead of rehabilitating they become hardened, and in many cases involved in increasingly serious crime. This cycle continues through generations. The current system is failing all of us.

This level of incarceration is not only costing resources, more importantly it is costing opportunity and potential. University of Saskatchewan Economist, Eric Howe, has stated

that a more educated and skilled Indigenous population would mean billions saved by the provincial justice, health and social services ministries. Improving the levels of education and employment for Saskatchewan Indigenous people would boost the provincial economy by up to $90 billion dollars.

How did we choose this challenge?
Conversations about community safety and wellbeing have been persistent in Saskatoon. The City started with the results of recent polls and studies and added a wide variety of workshops with different community groups about how they think the City could improve community safety and wellbeing. There was significant consistency, with the majority of responses identifying the importance of taking a proactive, coordinated inter-agency approach to prevent the causes of crime and how to support those most at risk to stay out of the justice system.

Year	Engagement Initiative
2011	City of Saskatoon Community Engagement Initiative
2015	Street Activity Baseline Study
2016	Municipal Election: Candidates consistently heard about the importance of crime and community safety on the doorstep, in debates and in conversations with voters.
2016	Mainstreet Research Poll: A poll during the election indicated crime was ranked as the second most important issue with 16% of residents ranking it as the most important issue.
2017	Downtown Co-design Workshop: explored what Saskatoon residents identify as key issues for the downtown and core neighborhoods. Safety was a primary concern.
2018	Smart Cities Public Stakeholder Workshops: three workshops were held to explore and develop the Challenge Statement.
2018	Smart Cities Online and In-person Surveys
2018	Smart Cities IT Engagement Workshops: two workshops were held with 18 tech companies to brainstorm what technology solutions could be applied to the proposed Challenge Statement.

This engagement formed the basis for the Challenge Statement which was then taken to a final consultation with representatives from youth organizations, including 'lived experience' youth. They discussed from their perspectives what key outcomes would be, how they would describe those outcomes, and what interventions they thought would impact the outcomes.

How are youth involved?
Youth are at the centre of this proposal and an important first step in the second phase is to meet with a Youth Advisory Group made up of teens and young adults aged 15-25 connected with our institutional partners and community organizations. They will work with us throughout the process to identify where we focus and how we develop the proposal, based on their lived experiences.

What ages define 'youth' in the proposal?
While youth are defined in the proposal as 12-17, early interventions are important and would be available for children younger than 12. Youth up to the age of 25 are also involved on our Youth Advisory Group.

What is the proposal trying to accomplish?
The goal of the proposal is to create a coordinated system of information and supports, also known as a collaborative technology 'hub', so that when youth are in a situation of crisis, they are able to access what they need in real-time. This hub can be used by organizations and decision makers to plug into and will provide a city-wide view of what's happening in specific relation to youth activity.

How will the proposal integrate data and technology?
Data and technology play a key role in the proposal to identify solutions and outcomes.

Using open data, the City and its community and institutional partners will create a collaborative technology hub comprised of multiple software platforms that youth, family members, service providers and institutions will be able to use in a real-time, case-specific manner.

Addressing the root causes of youth crime, and recognizing signs and patterns that lead up to such crime is critical. Many current programs and supports are already in place, but there is a lack of coordination, case management, shared data and integrated processes that are necessary to ensure youth actually receive the supports they need, while also enabling them to be empowered in the decisions that affect their lives.

The hub and related software platforms will be used to:
- Track where youth criminal activity is taking place.
- Aggregate data inputted by organizations to understand and recognize signs and patterns that can better identify detrimental activities and unmet needs of sensitive individuals.
- Implement necessary services quicker.
- Identify and ensure that the basic needs of individuals are being met such as healthy, proper housing and drinking water, education and employment.

Who are the community and institutional partners?
The City has initiated a partnership with key institutions who are all committed to working together to find proactive, preventative solutions to youth incarceration. Saskatoon's Smart Cities Challenge will build on this collaborative work and will use innovative technology to strengthen and connect supports necessary for youth to grow in a positive learning cycle, rather than find themselves pulled into a cycle of crime.

Institutional partners:
- Central Urban Metis Federation
- Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
- Saskatchewan Health Authority
- Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- Saskatoon Police Service
- Saskatoon Public School Division
- Saskatoon Tribal Council
- United Way of Saskatoon and area
- University of Saskatchewan

What role do institutional partners play?
Institutional partners have identified programs they feel are most relevant to our outcomes and have the greatest potential to be successfully coordinated in partnership with other programs and included in our technological hub. Partners are also involved in the Community Allies Group made up of both front-line and academic "experts" who will do research and analysis of best practices based on the issues the youth prioritize.

Technology partners:
The City is currently working on determining our technology requirements which will determine who will be our technology partners.

How can technology partners get involved?
If you are a tech company, there is currently a RFQ on sasktenders.ca for organizations to join a short-list of preferred vendors. The City's IT division is also running a Smart Cities initiative. Email Jazz Pabla at jazz.pabla@saskatoon.ca for more information.

Community partners:
The City has reached out to organizations to participate in the Youth Advisory Group, and are currently in conversations with other community groups to determine who is interested and how they can be involved.

How will the community be involved?
There are a number of ways the community will be included in the process:
- There will be several interactive workshops with the youth to focus on the users that the solution will be designed for.
- There will also be a number of feedback forums with the Community Allies Group, institutional partners and Youth Advisory Group.
- Demo stations will be set up for the general public to test after the technology tool is built to ensure citizens of Saskatoon are able to contribute to the progress of this project.

We are working with an iterative cycle meaning there will be a number of sessions held throughout the next 6-7 months while the competition is running. Dates and times will be announced on saskatoon.ca/smartcities, on social media and in the news, including information on how to become more involved.

Will groups and organizations be able to apply for funding through the Smart Cities Challenge?
No, this is not intended to be a granting program.

How will the $10 million be utilized, if Saskatoon is chosen as a winner?
The final proposal submission will identify what the $10 million funding will be used for in the implementation of the technology and supports required for the plan.

What is the timeline and process?
This is being developed, watch saskatoon.ca/smartcities for more information.

What happens if we don't win?
There is a commitment from all institutional partners to work together even if we don't win. There is already collaborative work being done on many of these issues and this will continue to build on it and bring it together for better coordination and impact.

For more information:
Project Website: saskatoon.ca/smartcities
Email: smartcities@saskatoon.ca
Government of Canada: http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/cities-villes/index-eng.html