

HHS Ignite Accelerator

Findings from 2014. Changes for 2015.

Updates to Ignite 2014 include:

1. There are two 2015 classes: Winter & Summer
2. Revisions to the application: Each team members' roles are identified; New questions posed for the proposal to address
3. Revised scoring criteria to reflect revised application
4. Revised Boot Camp goals reflecting greater emphasis on providing individual attention, prototyping, and project scoping
5. Revised Support Staff and Roles

Other Considerations:

- We will also explore the possibility of implementing Ignite in other government agency, either within or outside of HHS.

1. There are two 2015 classes: Spring & Summer

2014 (current)	Winter 2015	Summer 2015	Spring 2016
Sept 18 Projects Ends			
	Oct 1 Begin Accepting Applications		
	Oct 30 Applications Due		
	Nov 10 Finalists Notified		
	Nov 17-19 Finalists' Pitches		
	Nov 24 Notify Op/StaffDiv Heads		
	Dec 4 Selected Teams Notified		
	Jan 12, 2015 Projects Begin		
		Mar 2 Begin Accepting Applications	
		Mar 31 Applications Due	
		Apr 13 Finalists Notified	
	Apr 23 Projects End/Pitch		
		Apr 28-30 Finalists' Pitches	
		May 4 Notify Op/StaffDiv Heads	
		May 11 Selected Teams Notified	
		June 8 Projects Begin	
		Sept 24 Projects End/Pitch	
			Oct 1 Begin Accepting Applications
			Oct 30 Applications Due
			Jan 11, 2016 Projects Begin
			Apr 22 Projects End/Pitch

2. Revisions to the application: Each team members' roles are identified; New questions posed for the proposal to address

Personnel:

- Project Lead: Name, Agency, Email
- Supervisor of the Project Lead: Name, Agency, Title, Email
- Up to 4 Additional Team Members: Name, Agency, Email, Skill sets brought to the Team [50 characters]

Proposal:

- Executive Summary (Your Elevator Pitch) [same as last year]
- Please provide some background information on the environment you're operating in and describe the problem you're trying to address." [2000 characters]
- What is your idea/proposed solution you'd like to explore? [1000 characters]
- Who is your end-user/target customer? [75 characters]
- Ignite teams receive \$5,000 to go towards their project. Check this box if you would like to waive this award as your project does not require funding from us. Checking this box is non-binding and does not affect the selection process. [Y/N]
- Is there any other information you would to share with us? [500 characters]

3. Revised scoring criteria to reflect revised application

Old:

- Proposed project's importance to and potential impact on OpDiv and HHS mission [15 points]
- The likelihood that the methods and metrics proposed will produce and demonstrate reliable results [15]
- Transferability and/or scalability of the innovation [20]
- The novelty and disruptive nature of the innovation concept being tested. [25]
- The feasibility of the project proposed in terms of timeline, capital resources, personnel and program support. [25]

New:

- The project's importance to the Office, Agency and/or Department [20 points]
- The potential impact of the proposed solution. [40]
- The proposal's understanding and explanation of the problem that needs to be solved. [20]
- The proposal's understanding of the customers that the project serves. [20]

4. Revised Boot Camp goals reflecting greater emphasis on providing individual attention, prototyping, and project scoping

Changes include:

- Don't hold customer interviews on the first day.
- Attendance for the full time is mandatory for the project lead. (We were a little loose about this last time)
- Each team is assigned an technical advisor / mentor. Attendance for this advisor is a must for the full time, or at least for very particular times TBD. See next page for more info.
- Have each team create their low-res prototyping as a designated workshop.
- Have dedicated time towards the end for more concrete project scoping and planning.

5. Revised Support Staff and Roles

During the 3-Day Boot Camp, each team gets a technical advisor / mentor to help them understand their customers, participate in customer interviews, build a prototype, and scope their project.

Beyond the 3-day Boot Camp, advice and consult is provided predominantly by a core team of 5 individuals:

- 1 Ignite Director (sets tone, coordinates admin, red tape cutter)
- 4 Ignite Instructors (provide direct coaching and guidance)

Mentors brought in during the Boot Camp are certainly welcome to stay as engaged with their as they would like.