**MICROSOFT SCHOLARSHIP FOR CIVIC INNOVATION**

FAQs

What is “Civic Innovation”?

In recent years, “civic innovation” has gone from a niche movement to a growing and increasingly influential part of the broader civic community. More than 43 cities across the US – including Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville – have made their public data accessible to citizens, entrepreneurs, academics, and anyone else interested in what they can learn from, or do with, public data.  By doing so, cities have made it possible for local innovators to help them deliver more efficient and economical services and to provide better opportunities for interactions between government and citizens.

What are some examples of Civic Innovation solutions?

* [Will they Tow Me?](http://blog.microsoftnewengland.com/tag/will-they-tow-me/)
* [Kinems learning games](http://kinems.com/)
* [Turbo Vote](https://turbovote.org/register)
* [Citizens Connect](http://www.cityofboston.gov/DoIT/apps/citizensconnect.asp)

How do I know if my startup is eligible?

If your startup is helping elected officials deliver improved services to citizens, increasing communication with residents and enhancing government effectiveness then you are eligible.

Is the Microsoft Scholarship for Civic Innovation open to startups from every location?

Yes, startups from any location are eligible for this scholarship.

Where can I find more information about civic innovation?

For more information on civic innovation, please visit the following websites:

* [Knight Foundation](http://www.knightfoundation.org/features/civictech/)
* [Microsoft New England Blog](http://blog.microsoftcambridge.com/category/civic-tech/)

I’m still confused! Can you help?

Of course! Please e-mail apply@masschallenge.org and we’ll be happy to answer any questions you may have.