



Secure Collaboration & Protecting Your Intellectual Property

Prize-Makers, Researchers & Nonprofits Collaborate Safely

Our “Problem>Prize>Solution” process is based on the latest proven online safeguards and intellectual property protections necessary to preserve your identity and rights as prize-makers, researchers, and nonprofit organizations. We know that it is essential that your communications and submissions remain secure and protected in order for our Open Innovation Philanthropy™ system to help you gain the power of mass collaboration. Your identity and intellectual property is yours and we use the most stringent guidelines available to bring the world to your doorstep.

1. Prize-Maker Problem Submission: Confidential and Anonymous

Open Innovation Philanthropy™ starts with the creation of a problem statement, establishment of a deadline, and the deposit (or pledge) of prize money. Prize-Makers collaborate with the Philoptima staff to craft a clear problem statement and to match the scope of the problem to the size of the prize. In doing so, the Prize-Maker remains anonymous. After passing our stringent guidelines for applicability, legality, and integrity, we conduct a final comprehensive review and post the problem statement, deadline, and prize on our website.

2. Information Details Protected: Web Security

We protect your valuable information and intellectual property using the latest online security systems. Your draft material and working documents are safe in one of our password-protected folders. Your submissions are only open to those to whom you have given your password(s) or those approved by Philoptima to study and respond to your submissions. You can communicate with other prize-makers, researchers, nonprofits and with our team with confidence.

3. Solution Submissions: Enforceable Contracts

Your information is controlled and protected through a series of at least two separate enforceable contracts. All users of Open Innovation Philanthropy™ agree to very specific terms governing the site and each user population of researchers, consultants, experts, prize-makers, and nonprofit organizations agrees to specially-designed binding and enforceable contracts that protect users from abusive or invasive tactics while guarding their intellectual property rights. Each posted prize offers a short abstract for non-confidential viewing and wide dissemination, but, researchers and other users must agree to binding confidentiality terms before seeing the details of the entire problem statement or proposed solution.

4. Award Payments: Timely Assessment & Verification

Researchers, consultants, and experts admitted to the Philoptima Faculty may submit proposed solutions to Design or Implementation Prizes which are, in turn, vetted by the Philoptima staff for adequacy before being presented to Prize-Makers. This vetting process may include validation by the Prize-Maker who also makes the final selection of one or more winning solutions. Prior to paying an award, Philoptima staff may also verify that a particular Faculty member has the authority to transfer rights to material submitted in pursuit of a prize. This may include securing hard-copy signatures, employer waivers, team designations, work paper or draft evidence, etc. After final assessment, verification, and payment of an award, winners transfer all intellectual property rights to the Prize-Maker and all other (non-selected) Faculty members retain their rights to the material submitted.