



AI GRAND CHALLENGE FOR **RESILIENCE**

Ensuring America's Preparedness For the People By the People

Background & Objective

Crises like the COVID-19 global pandemic and ongoing natural disasters make it more urgent than ever for the public to gain fast and easy access to their federal benefits and services. As we navigate through the challenges and impact of COVID-19, it is important to take a hard look at how equipped our nation was to handle such a crisis, how effective our federal response has been, and what has to change ongoing in order to proactively prepare ourselves for a more resilient response to future crises.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not the first, nor will it be the last natural disaster, and the policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic is a reflection of where stressors and shocks on the nation begin to show. Rather than waiting until the pandemic is over, the GSA's Technology Transformation Services (TTS) is launching the AI Grand Challenge for Resilience now. We are beginning this retrospective so that we can proactively partner with policy makers to address any exposed vulnerabilities for future resiliency.

The AI Grand Challenge for Resilience aspires to be a series of challenges focused on our nation's preparedness. The first in this series of challenges is focused on COVID-19 pandemic and seeks to leverage AI, Natural Language Processing, and Text Analytics to understand how the government responded to the pandemic through policy changes and link that response to societal outcomes. We are eager to combine our data with the entrepreneurial spirit of our people to both assess what impact COVID-19 has had and what it will take to build resiliency for the United States.

This is a call for our country to come together in anticipating and addressing the enduring effects of COVID-19. The most impactful outcomes will come through an unprecedented partnership between the government and the public to imagine, shape, and implement solutions.

Partnership

While the government shares its wealth of data with the public, our solutions will reflect the skills of people we partner with; there is no contribution or collaboration too small in building our nation's resilience.

We are looking to collaborate with leaders from industry, academia, non-profit and diverse communities to leverage data, artificial intelligence and sustainable practices to stay ahead of the curve.

Our Approach

Phase 1: Request for Feedback on the Draft Challenge Document: Open May 6th - June 4th

We'll begin our work together through a round of ideation, accepting comments, and questions from the public. This includes the overall challenge and its objectives, data, tools and techniques, as well as the submission process.

Phase 2: Open the AI Grand Challenge for Resilience to the Crowd: June 14th - August 16th, 2021

The TTS AI Grand Challenge for Resilience goes live!

The primary objective of this challenge is to build a community of AI practitioners, who work in the natural language processing and text analytics fields, and policy experts, who understand and navigate the policy domain. The secondary objective of this challenge is to glean insight from regulation activities on our national resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The final challenge announcement, datasets, and reference documentation will be published to the challenge GitHub repo with feedback incorporated

during the RFF process. During this time, TTS will host a series of webinars, AMAs, and other updates along the way.

Here are examples of what we hope to get out of the Challenge:

- Advances in NLP and Text Analytic Techniques
- Labeled Datasets
- Knowledge Representation of Policies
- Innovative Analytic Models
- Evidence-Based Storytelling
- Ethical, Transparent, Explainable Exemplars of AI-Enabled Applications
- Techniques for understanding the connection of policy to societal outcomes

Phase 3: Judge Submissions, Award Prizes, and Share Our Findings: August 16th - August 27th, 2021

The TTS team and its panel of expert judges will review submissions and award \$60,000 in prizes split up across technical categories. In addition, TTS will provide announcements for honorable mentions and host a virtual recap, where we can share our findings and special updates with you.

Join Us

To get involved, clone our GitHub repo [here](#) and send us a pull request with the primary point of contact POC and information about you or your team.

For idea submission or questions, contact the TTS AI Grand Challenge for Resilience team at: tts_ai_challenge@gsa.gov