

# Barrier Breakers 2026

## Financial Health Innovation Challenge



### \$20,000+ in Prizes • March 20, 2026 • Kent State University

High schoolers in Northeast Ohio: Build solutions to real financial barriers and compete for cash prizes, scholarships, and school grants.



Transportation



Housing



Healthcare



Financial Literacy



Community

#### How It Works

- **Apply as a Team** (1-3 students) by February 27, 2026
- **Choose a Track** and research the financial barrier
- **Build a Solution** — app, tool, policy, or resource
- **Present at Kent State** on March 20, 2026
- Use AI tools like Gemini or Claude to prototype

#### Why Bring Your Students

- Real-world problem solving experience
- Exposure to financial literacy concepts
- Kent State campus visit opportunity
- Networking with business professionals
- Portfolio-building project for college apps

#### Prize Categories

##### Demo Day (Top 5 Teams)

1st: \$4,000 • 2nd: \$2,500 • 3rd: \$1,250  
Plus Kent State scholarships

##### Innovation Gallery

\$500 prizes for top projects  
All teams compete for recognition

##### Quiz Bowl & School Grants

Financial literacy competition prizes  
Grants for sponsoring schools

#### Ready to Participate?

No limit on teams — everyone who applies can compete!

[Apply Now →](#) [Learn More →](#)

Questions? Contact [hello@finmango.org](mailto:hello@finmango.org) | [finmango.org/barrier-breakers](https://finmango.org/barrier-breakers)