



THE 2011 HAMILTON PROJECT POLICY INNOVATION PRIZE

\$25,000 AWARDED FOR THE BEST PROPOSALS TO CREATE JOBS AND ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY

CONTEST OPENS JANUARY 31, 2011

The need to create jobs and bring down unemployment continues to be among the most pressing challenges facing U.S. policymakers. With the unemployment rate still hovering at 9.4 percent, bold actions will be required to promote economic growth that is both vigorous and broad-based – to ensure that all Americans benefit from our economic recovery.

[The Hamilton Project](#), an economic policy initiative at the Brookings Institution, has launched a prize competition to identify new and innovative thinking about policies to create jobs in the United States and enhance productivity. In the spirit of the America COMPETES Act that was recently reauthorized by Congress, the Project believes that prizes are a valuable tool for spurring innovation and finding solutions for some of our nation's most pressing challenges.

The competition is open to academic, business and policy professionals who can demonstrate an original policy solution for increasing employment and productivity within two years of its implementation. The winning proposals will be evidence-based and also take into account the economic reality of federal and state budget constraints. They should also identify likely political constraints.

The Hamilton Project will award \$25,000 in prizes, with the winner of the 2011 competition receiving \$15,000 and the runners-up sharing the remaining \$10,000. In addition to the cash prizes, the winning proposal will be featured on The Hamilton Project website and the author may be invited to turn that proposal into a formal discussion paper issued by the Project.

The proposal should be no more than 5,000 words, exclusive of any charts, tables or other graphics. It should include an abstract of no more than 250 words that clearly describes the proposal. Neither the proposal nor the abstract should include identifying information about the author or his/her affiliation. A selection committee comprised of [Hamilton Project staff](#) and [Advisory Council members](#) will judge the papers through a blind process, in which each proposal is identified by an assigned code.

Successful proposals will do the following:

- Estimate the magnitude of employment and productivity gains from the proposal, using data to support those claims;
- Include a rigorous analysis of the costs and benefits of the policy proposal, demonstrating the cost of job creation and the estimated benefits through increased productivity from successful implementation of that policy; and

- Be consistent with The Hamilton Project's economic strategy, which emphasizes that long-term prosperity is best achieved by fostering economic growth and broad participation in that growth, by enhancing individual economic security, and by embracing a role for effective government in making needed public investments.
 - *The full Hamilton Project strategy paper may be found at:*
http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2010/04_economic_recovery_greenstone.aspx

Proposals will be judged based on their innovativeness, strength of analysis, rigor and soundness of cost-benefit analysis, and projected gains for employment and productivity.

Proposals should be submitted electronically to info@hamiltonproject.org no later than **5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, April 1, 2011**. Each participant will receive confirmation when his/her proposal is received and the winners will be notified no later than June 15, 2011.

The proposals should be original, unpublished manuscripts. Proposals that have been published prior to the April 1st deadline will not be considered.

The Hamilton Project Policy Innovation Prize Competition is open to all U.S. citizens and foreign-nationals working at U.S. institutions.

For more information on The Hamilton Project, please visit www.hamiltonproject.org or call 202-797-6318. Any press inquiries should be addressed to kanderson@brookings.edu.