

Community Futures essay prize

Guidelines for entrants

1. Introduction

Entrants must write an essay of no more than 2,500 words, including the title, notes and references, answering the question:

What is your policy idea for turning the most socially and economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods in England into thriving communities, what is the evidence behind it, and how might it best be successfully implemented with maximum impact?

2. Prize

- a. The prize for first place will be £5,000 and there will be two runners-up prizes of £1,000 each.
- b. The winning essay will be published on the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) website with excerpts published on the Local Trust and Demos websites.

3. Measures to promote the essay

The winner will also be offered the following opportunities to promote their essay:

- A meeting with policymakers at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
- The invitation to take part in a Whitehall roundtable with senior officials across departments, organised by Demos.
- A six-month fellowship with Demos, subject to funding.

4. Eligibility

- a. Entrants must include a short statement with their submission explaining how they meet the criteria for entry. Entrants must fall into at least one of the following categories:
 - Early career researchers who have been principal investigators for fewer than five years.

- Policy analysts who have started a career in policy fewer than five years ago.
 - Graduate and post-doctoral students.
 - Independent practitioners working in the community sector for fewer than five years.
 - Group submissions will be accepted as long as all contributors meet the criteria.
- b. The following are not allowed to enter: Employees or close relatives of employees of Local Trust, Demos or Sheffield Hallam University.
- c. If you are not sure if you meet the criteria, please contact Local Trust's research team to check.

5. Rules

- a. Local Trust reserves the right to at any time: Change the rules, discard any submission, withdraw the prize, or withdraw or alter the measure to promote the essay.
- b. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not allowed.

6. Submission

- a. All essays must be submitted as a Word document or PDF, sent to Research@localtrust.org.uk
- b. Submissions must be no more than 2,500 words including title, notes and references.
- c. Entrants must include a short statement with their submission explaining how they meet the criteria for entry.

7. Conditions of collecting the prize

To collect the prize, authors must agree to allow Local Trust and partners to publish their essay and to edit it into a suitable format for publication. They must also agree to abide by the final decision of the judging panel. Winners must not publish their essay independently.

8. Criteria for judging

Submissions will be judged on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the question
- Analytical rigour

- Use of evidence
- Structure and organisation
- Clarity

9. **Key dates**

- Competition opens: 17 September 2024
- Deadline for submission: 10 January 2025
- Announcement of winner and runners-up: February 2025

10. **Contact**

To get in touch, email the Local Trust research team at: Research@localtrust.org.uk