Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Who is eligible to participate in the Illinois Innovation Challenge?

Participants must be between the ages of 12 and 20 and residents of the State of Illinois. Teams may have up to 5 students and one teacher or mentor. Individuals may participate and submit proposals, but presentation time frames may be shortened.

2. How do I register for the competition?

Advance registration is required to participate in the presentations on December 9 at High-Tech CHI. (Add link to registration website and deadline)

3. What opportunities can I address in my proposed project?

Proposed solutions or projects must address one or more of the following opportunities:

Develop an Intelligent Chatbot: Utilize advanced technology like Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and Generative AI to craft a chatbot. This chatbot will be able to listen to suggestions for improving state government. Moreover, it can determine which government department should deal with these ideas and guide them in the appropriate direction.

Help People Find Information: Create a system that collaborates with people from Illinois when they have questions. It can help them find the right forms or information on the government's website. It can even chat with people in a natural way, almost like having a conversation with a human.

Manage Audio and Video Files: Propose a program that can catalogue audio and video files. It will organize them, add descriptions, and make them smaller so they don't take up too much space. It should also make sure only the authorized people can access these files.

4. What happens if I can't attend the pre-event webinar on November 13?

Participation in the webinar is encouraged but not mandatory for participating in the competition and presentations. The webinar is intended to provide you with valuable information to create viable projects, but it is not a requirement for participation. A copy of the recording of the webinar will be included on the DoIT STEAM website.

5. How will my project be judged?

Judging will take place in person during the High-Tech CHI event on December 9, 2023. Teams will have a maximum of 10 minutes for their presentations, followed by 5 minutes of questions from the judges. Individual presentations may be limited to 5 minutes each with an additional 5 minutes allotted for questions. Judging will consider the following criteria:

> **Impact:** How well does the project address the opportunity?
> **Innovation:** Does the project offer a creative approach to address the challenge?
> **Usability:** How easy is it to implement the proposed solution? Does the proposed design and interface make the solution user-friendly?

Presentation: How well is the proposed solution communicated? How effectively does the presentation demonstrate potential impact, innovation, and potential for practical use?

6. Can I submit multiple projects?

Yes, you can submit multiple projects addressing different opportunities if you wish. Please submit a separate registration for each project proposal.

7. What happens to the proposed solutions after the competition?

The State of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology may or may not implement any of the proposed solutions, including the winning proposals. DoIT is under no obligation to implement any of the proposed solutions.

8. What are current technologies used by the state and are they mandatory for our solutions?

State government operates within perimeters set by state law and procedures. DoIT may implement or utilize all or a portion of any proposed solutions within the standards and platforms currently used. Illinois' accessibility standards and the Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Act (IITAA) requires Illinois agencies and universities to ensure that their web sites, information systems, and information technologies are accessible to people with disabilities. While the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act already require the State to ensure its communications and services are accessible, the IITAA establishes specific technical standards and encourages the State to address accessibility proactively. The following table below outlines some of the current technologies in use by DoIT, but the proposed solutions should not be limited to these examples:

Adobe Experience Manager for website development	Microsoft Power Platform and .NET for software application development
Docusign for digital signatures	Salesforce or Microsoft Dynamics for managing customer relationships
Google Dialogflow for chatbots	ServiceNow for organizing tasks and managing requests

9. Can I receive feedback on my project submission if it doesn't win?

We encourage continuous learning and improvement. While feedback is not guaranteed, we will do our best to provide constructive feedback to all participants, even if their projects are not selected as winners.

10. How can I stay updated on the event and any potential changes or updates?

You can stay updated by visiting the DoIT STEAM website for the latest information. Additionally, we encourage you to follow our social media channels for event announcements and updates.

These FAQs should help address common questions and concerns that potential participants may have, making the registration and participation process more straightforward and transparent.