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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S BUSINESS FOR IMPACT TEAM AMONG TOP 100 PROPOSALS FOR MACARTHUR \$100 MILLION GRANT

High-scoring 100&Change applications featured in Bold Solutions Network

Washington, D.C. — The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation today unveiled 'Let There Be Sight' as one of the selected proposals designated as the Top 100 in its *100&Change* competition for a single \$100 million grant to help solve one of the world's most critical social challenges.

'Let There Be Sight' combines the talents of lead partner, Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, with supporting partners Georgetown University's Business for Impact, OneSight and Global Vision 2020, to address the world's largest disability. Over one billion people, mostly in the Global South, need basic reading or distance correction, but do not have access to eyeglasses. This consortium leverages four proven, field-tested approaches to create a sustainable, scalable, low-cost system that provides access to vision care through a series of vision centers. These centers will be located in local health centers and support a network of 'Visionpreneurs' who will travel to private sector workplaces and remote communities, offering on-site exams and glasses. They will be recruited from the large percentage of young people in the Global South who are unemployed. Business for Impact's role will focus on training and supporting the Visionpreneurs, and on providing eyeglasses to employees in private sector workplaces.

The Top 100 represent the top 21 percent of competition submissions. The proposals were rigorously vetted, undergoing MacArthur's initial administrative review, a [Peer-to-Peer](#) review, an evaluation by an [external panel of judges](#), and a technical review by specialists whose expertise was matched to the project.

Each proposal was evaluated using [four criteria](#): impactful, evidence-based, feasible, and durable. MacArthur's Board of Directors will select up to 10 finalists from these high-scoring proposals this spring.

"We are honored to be among the top 100 applicants and to have the opportunity to work with our partners," said Gael O'Sullivan, Senior Partner at Business for Impact.

“This project aligns with our mission, which is focused on leveraging the power of the private sector to solve social problems. In this case, our model is a win-win for businesses. They will see an immediate substantial return on investment through increased employee productivity, as well as via reductions in workplace injuries and accidents.”

“MacArthur seeks to generate increased recognition, exposure, and support for the high-impact ideas designated as the Top 100,” said Cecilia Conrad, CEO of Lever for Change and MacArthur Managing Director, *100&Change*. “Based on our experience in the first round of *100&Change*, we know the competition will produce multiple compelling and fundable ideas. We are committed to matching philanthropists with powerful solutions and problem solvers to accelerate social change.”

Since the inaugural competition, other funders and philanthropists have committed an additional \$419 million to date to support bold solutions by *100&Change* applicants. Building on the success of *100&Change*, MacArthur created [Lever for Change](#) to unlock significant philanthropic capital by helping donors find and fund vetted, high-impact opportunities through the design and management of customized competitions. In addition to *100&Change*, Lever for Change is managing the Chicago Prize, the Economic Opportunity Challenge, and the Larsen Lam ICONIQ Impact Award.

Bold Solutions Network Launches

The [Bold Solutions Network](#) launched today, featuring Business for Impact, Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, OneSight and Global Vision 2020, one of the Top 100 from *100&Change*. The searchable online collection of submissions contains a project overview, 90-second video, and two-page factsheet for each proposal. Visitors can sort by subject, location, Sustainable Development Goal, or beneficiary population to view proposals based on area of interest.

The Bold Solutions Network will showcase the highest-rated proposals that emerge from the competitions Lever for Change manages. Proposals in the Bold Solutions Network undergo extensive evaluation and due diligence to ensure each solution promises real and measurable progress to accelerate social change.

The Bold Solutions Network was designed to provide an innovative approach to identifying the most effective, enduring solutions aligned with donors’ philanthropic goals and to help top applicants gain visibility and funding from a wide array of funders. Organizations that are part of the network will have continued access to a variety of technical support and learning opportunities focused on strengthening their proposals and increasing the impact of their work.

More About 100&Change

[100&Change](#) is a distinctive competition that is open to organizations and collaborations working in any field, anywhere in the world. Proposals must identify a problem and offer a solution that promises significant and durable change.

The second round of the competition had a [promising start](#): 3,690 competition registrants submitted 755 proposals. Of those, 475 passed an initial administrative review. *100&Change* was designed to be fair, open, and transparent. The [identity of the judges](#) and the [methodology](#) used to assess initial proposals are public. Applicants received comments and feedback from the peers, judges, and technical reviewers. Key issues in the competition are discussed in a [blog](#) on MacArthur's website.

In the [inaugural round of 100&Change](#), [Sesame Workshop and International Rescue Committee](#) were awarded \$100 million to educate young children displaced by conflict and persecution in the Syrian response region and to challenge the global system of humanitarian aid to focus more on building a foundation for future success for millions of young children.

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