

Infy Maker Awards 2021 FAQs

What are the Infy Maker Awards?

The goal of [Infy Maker Awards](#) is to broaden access to maker education with a focus on reaching underserved and underrepresented students. Since the Infy Maker Awards contest launched in 2015, the Infosys Foundation USA has been able to broaden access to maker-centered learning and to support innovative makers in more than 70 communities across 24 states. Last year's [10 winning organizations](#) were from 7 different states and included schools, non-profit organizations, museums and makerspaces.

What is this year's theme?

As a result of COVID19, this year has presented a magnitude of challenges to learning and education that has not been seen before. While all are struggling, the sudden flip to a remote or hybrid model has made learning more difficult for some and nearly impossible for others, particularly those in low-income communities and communities of color. This year's Infy Maker Awards will focus on projects empowering students to engage in maker education remotely.

Who is eligible to apply for an Infy Maker Award?

Organizations that are eligible to apply include K-12 schools, non-profit organizations, libraries, museums, makerspaces, community centers, colleges and universities that are engaging K-12 students in maker education in the U.S. An organization should be registered as a 501(c)(3) or 170(c)(1).

When are applications being accepted for Infy Maker Awards 2021?

Organizations can submit their applications online from January 12, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. PT until March 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. PT.

What does an organization need to do in order to apply for an Infy Maker Award?

To apply online, visit www.infymakers.com. The process is easy and consists of a few short questions about your project (a project description, a budget outlining what you will spend the grant on and details about how you will keep your project going in the future), a 90 second video and one letter of support from an organization or individual with whom your organization has previously worked. The Infy Maker Awards application is hosted on the Submittable platform, where you can work on a draft of your application and save it before submitting it.

What do winning organizations receive?

A winning organization may receive one professional development package for two staff members to attend the Pathfinders Summer Institute if hosted in 2021 (the Infosys Foundation USA's signature computer science and maker education professional development program for K-12 teachers) and \$10,000 in flexible funding which can be used in a variety of ways, including to develop maker-oriented projects for students, to conduct impact & assessment research or to engage the broader community through new collaborations or partnerships.

Where can I find the complete contest rules?

The contest rules can be accessed at www.infymakers.com. All applying organizations should review the contest rules thoroughly before submitting their applications.

What if I still have a question about the Infy Maker Awards after reviewing the contest information online?

Please send an email to foundation.usa@infosys.com and someone from the Foundation team will follow up promptly.

What is the judging criteria?

Each application can receive a total of 100 points. The judging criteria that will be used by a panel of external judges includes the following:

Strength of the proposed plan and budget to use the award, support letter and sustainability plan (40 points)

- Does the information provided by the plan and budget suggest a well-developed and implementable initiative based on the resources that would be provided by an Infy Maker Award? (20 points)
- Does the support letter indicate the Eligible Organization's ability to successfully implement this plan? (10 points)
- Does the sustainability plan indicate a path towards ensuring continued growth as opposed to a one off project? (10 points)

Need (30 points)

- To what extent does the organization work in an underserved community? (i.e. low-income, high poverty, free and reduced lunch) (15 points)
- To what extent does the organization work with underrepresented students? (i.e. girls, students of color) (15 points)

Potential overall impact (20 points)

- Based on the information provided in the application, will the proposed plan have a significant impact through indicators such as number of students reached, capacity expansion for providing maker education and creation of new cross sector partnerships?

Quality of the video (10 points)

- Does the video describe the organization, how it plans to use an Infy Maker Award and who the award will benefit? (5 points)
- Is the video creative? (3 points)
- Is the video concise? (Please note that, if a video is longer than 90 seconds, this may have a negative effect on this judging criteria) (2 points)

Who judges the Infy Maker Awards?

Applications are initially reviewed by the Infosys Foundation USA team. A diverse panel of judges with expertise in maker education from the K-12 sector, higher education, industry and youth-serving organizations will review the finalists applications and help determine the winning organizations.

When are the winners for Infy Maker Awards 2021 announced?

Winners will be publicly announced online no later than August 31, 2021.