2023 Up To Us Case Competition

In partnership with

Bipartisan Policy Center

AASCU's American Democracy Project

ADP

Contents

Introduction

Up to Us is a nationwide non-partisan campus competition that empowers students to educate their peers on our long-term national debt, how it could affect their economic opportunities, and what their generation can do to have a voice. With the Bipartisan Policy Center and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' American Democracy Project, Up to Us is thrilled to launch the **Up to Us Case Competition** in the spring 2023 semester to increase awareness of and interest in today's policy challenges.

The Up to Us Case Competition asks teams of students nationwide to consider complex policy problems through a fiscal lens and develop innovative and equitable solutions. Students will respond to prompts addressing the rising national debt in the context of growing climate concerns, the affordability of higher education, or rising health care costs by proposing creative yet practical solutions that consider the often competing — yet critical — aspects of the policymaking process: equitable policy development, prudent fiscal management, and long-term political feasibility.

In the spring of 2023, teams will submit their policy solutions to an expert panel of judges with a 4–7-minute video presentation and a 1-page policy memo. The judging panel will select the first-place winning team for the $5,000 grand prize, and award $1,000 prizes to the second through fifth-place teams. One student from each of the top 5 winning teams will also earn an all-expenses-paid trip to the Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Conference in Boston, MA from May 31 – June 3, 2023 to present their finalist submissions.

2023 Timeline

January
Case Competition launches

March 13
Deadline for Optional Early Bird Review

April 14
Final Submission Deadline

May 8
Winners Notified

May 31 - June 3
One student from each of the top 5 teams will attend the 2023 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Conference to present their solutions.

A Call to Action for the Next Generation: Securing a Sustainable Fiscal Path

Start here with an introductory overview of fiscal policy. Understand its core objectives, the federal budget, deficit, and debt, and why it all matters for the next generation.

What is Fiscal Policy?

Fiscal policy guides the government's response to changing economic conditions and policy priorities. It determines how the government manages its finances through a combination of both *taxation* and *spending*.

- *Expansionary fiscal policy* is used to help stimulate economic activity, either through increases in government spending, a reduction in taxes, or a combination of both. It is typically used during economic downturns to stimulate economic activity and often contributes to the deficit, when the government spends more money than it collects in revenues through taxation and fees.
- *Contractionary fiscal policy,* alternatively, is used to either cut spending or raise taxes, or both, to generate increased revenues in times when the economy is stable and growing. This can be done to help curb economic concerns such as inflation, and to build a government *surplus* to better help respond to future economic downturns.

Fiscal policy is separate from *monetary policy*, which is used to impact economic growth by managing interest rates and the supply of money circulating in the economy. Similar to fiscal policy, monetary policy can be used to help expand or contract the economy in response to fluctuations.

Objectives of Fiscal Policy

The federal government cannot just spend money freely to respond to changing economic conditions. It is, in fact, constrained by how much tax revenue it collects and how much *fiscal space* — its ability to reprioritize existing spending or borrow at a reasonable cost—is available for new spending initiatives or tax cuts.

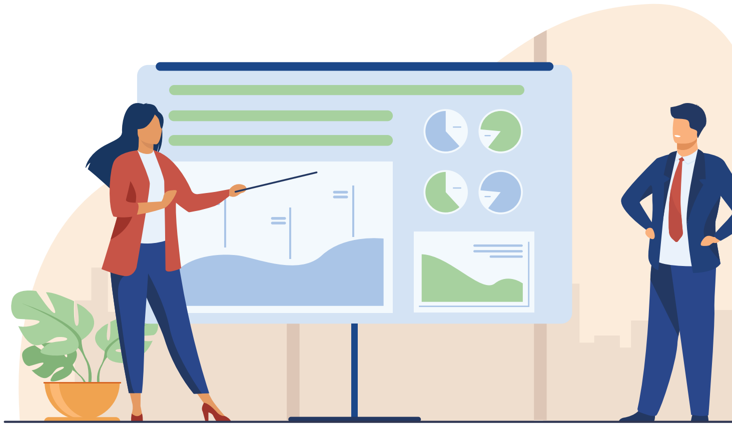
Balancing government spending and revenues is further constrained by political priorities, leading to complex policy maneuvers that require trade-offs in the short- and long-run to meet the country's ever-changing needs. It is within this dynamic economic, social, and political ecosystem that fiscal policy attempts to meet the following objectives:

- Economic growth
- Efficient allocation of resources
- Equitable distribution of income and wealth
- Employment generation
- Price stability

Understanding the Federal Budget, Deficit, and Debt

While the government has these fiscal tools at its disposal to respond to economic fluctuations, it is important to have a shared understanding of key economic terms as they relate. These include:

- The *federal budget*, an annual plan developed by lawmakers that reflects how the U.S. government should spend money to cover the costs of all federal priorities.
- The *federal deficit*, which is the difference between what the government generates in revenue (e.g., in taxes, fees, customs duties) and what it spends annually. In fiscal year 2022, the federal government collected $4.8 trillion in revenues and spent $6.2 trillion, resulting in an annual deficit for 2022 of $1.4 trillion.
- The *federal debt*, which is the accumulation of <u>*all*</u> annual deficits — since the nation's founding — offset by any years of surpluses, and currently exceeds $31 trillion.



One of the primary responsibilities of our elected officials is to determine how and how much the federal government will spend annually on the public programs and services it provides to the public. Each year, the President submits a budget proposal to Congress that outlines policy priorities for the nation and recommends how federal dollars should be allocated for the coming fiscal year. Congress must then pass legislation through the appropriations process that allocates these funds according to what it deems are the country's priorities. Sometimes lawmakers from both branches and parties agree on these priorities, often they do not.

Revenues

Government revenues are collected from the public primarily through taxation. Revenues come from a variety of sources, including individual and corporate income taxes, payroll taxes, excise taxes, customs duties, estate and gift taxes, and other fees:

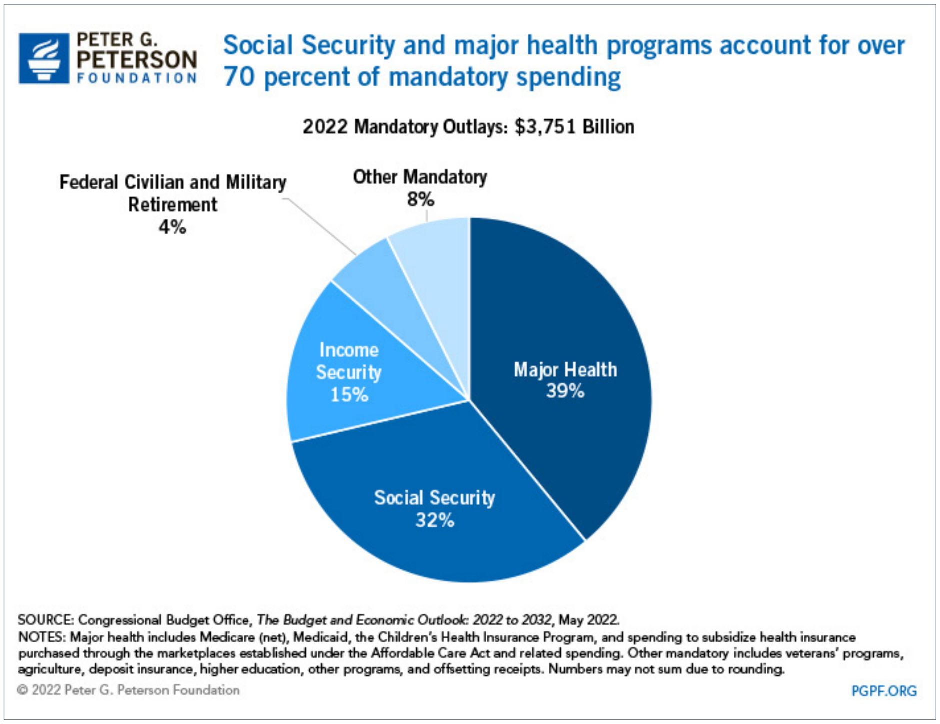
- **Income taxes:** Taxes levied on the wages and salaries earned by individuals, income from investments, and other income.
- **Payroll taxes:** Taxes paid by both employees and employers to fund public social insurance programs, levied on wages, salaries, and tips.
- **Excise taxes:** Taxes levied on the production or purchase of a particular good or service, such as gasoline, tobacco, alcohol, and air transportation, among others.
- **Customs duties:** Taxes levied on the import of goods into the U.S.

Spending

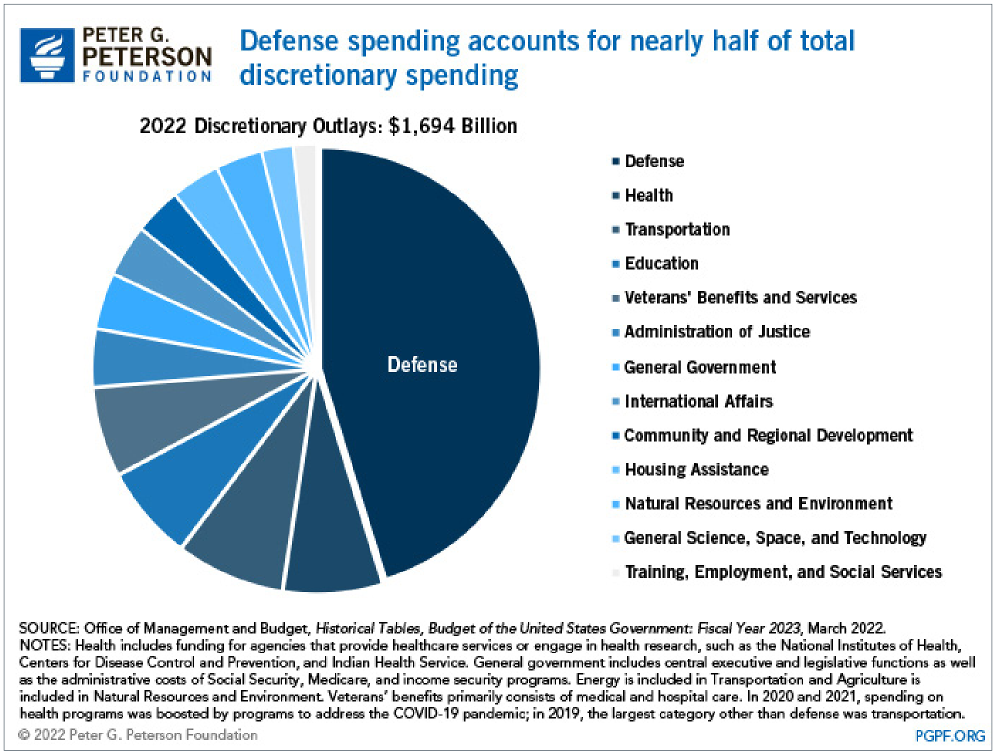
The vast majority of federal dollars are dictated through mandatory spending, leaving approximately 30% to be determined on a yearly basis by Congress. As a result, if the government spends more than it generates in revenues, the resulting deficit will have significant implications for the fiscal health of the nation.

Government spending is divided into three categories:

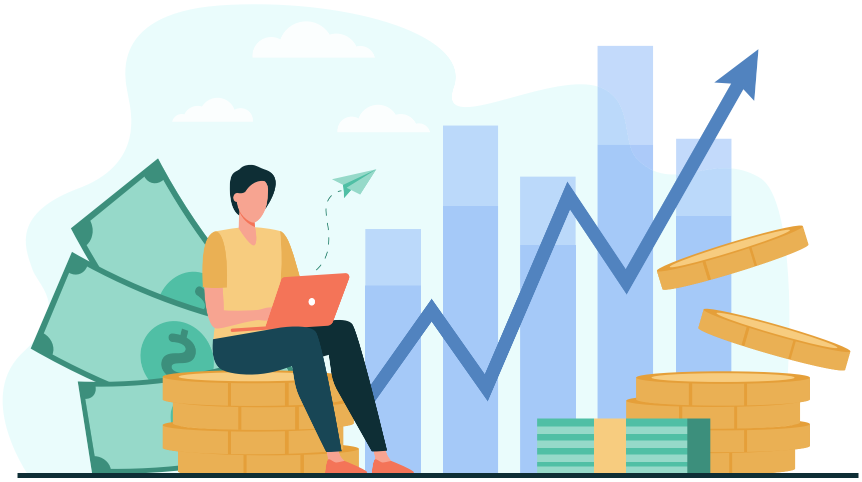
- *Mandatory spending*, government spending for certain programs that is pre-determined by laws Congress passes and not subject to the annual appropriations process. This includes spending on critical health and income security programs that are administered by the government, such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, among others. Federal spending on higher education through the provision of student loans is also considered mandatory spending.



- *Discretionary spending*, government spending allocated annually by Congress through the annual appropriations process based on changing needs and priorities. This includes spending on national defense, education, natural resources, energy and the environment, and housing assistance, among a host of other public needs and services.



- *Net interest*, government spending on the national debt. Federal spending on net interest largely depends on current interest rates and the amount of debt outstanding. Rising interest rates lead to forgone future investments, misallocate existing resources, and hamper economic growth by increasing inflationary effects on goods and services. The more we borrow today, the more expensive it will be to continue borrowing in the future, igniting a ripple effect.



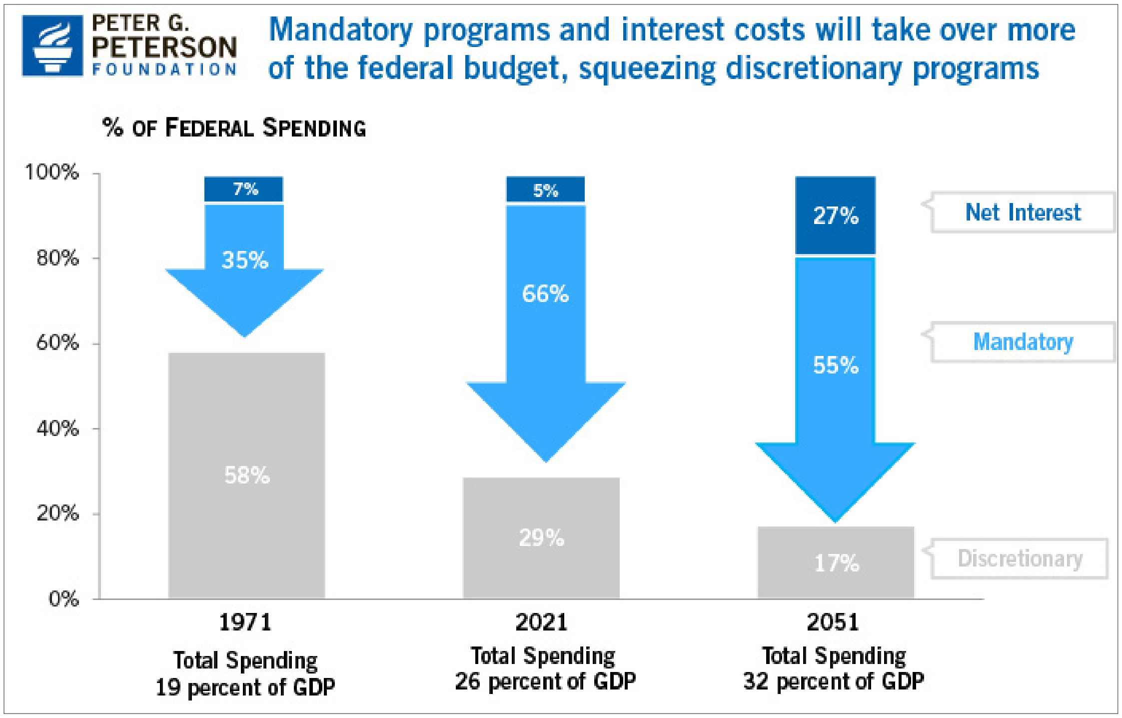
Why High Deficits & Debt Matter

Even during recent periods of economic growth, the federal government has run large and growing budget deficits, near $1 trillion per year. Today, the federal debt will only continue climbing as mandatory spending and interest payments on the debt grow faster than revenues. At the current rate, the U.S. Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that our debt could be double the size of the U.S. economy within 30 years, with interest spending on track to become the largest federal program by 2045. The ongoing retirement of baby boomers will also continue to put more pressure on rising health care costs and social insurance programs.

Higher interest payments owed on the national debt will also eventually force the government to make difficult fiscal tradeoffs, impacting every American household and potentially jeopardizing the programs and services that millions of Americans—and especially vulnerable populations—depend on to sustain their livelihoods. Spending on other national priorities key for economic growth and opportunity, such as higher education, the environment, and healthcare, could decrease as they are relatively deprioritized against meeting our interest obligations. Such a scenario would pose great risks to the economy, as well as the nation's global reputation, for years to come. Our country's ability to lead on the global stage is determined, in part, by our fiscal security and economic competitiveness.

A Call to Action for the Next Generation

All policy decisions broadly reflect our nation's values and priorities, particularly when it comes to allocating and raising federal dollars. With the federal debt relative to the size of the economy now higher than at any point since World War II at nearly 98% of GDP—and only projected to climb further as mandatory spending requirements continue to rise in the absence of new revenue generation—it is paramount that policymakers across the political spectrum recognize their responsibility to secure a sustainable economic future for the next generation.



Determining precisely how to allocate funding for public programs and services — including those that support *the environment*, *higher education*, and *healthcare* — illustrates the complex decision-making process that policymakers face. Supporting these programs is costly, but also necessary to create economic opportunity and prosperity. Many of these programs are also widely popular among taxpayers. Therefore, policymakers must consider inherently difficult trade-offs between spending priorities and sources of new revenue to support those priorities.

While fiscal policy can be adjusted to respond to shifting economic conditions, the accompanying political decisions—whether and how to spend or tax — are complex and rarely produce a perfect nor easy solution. As such, policymakers consistently struggle to reduce the deficit, leaving the next generation increasingly responsible to course-correct our unsustainable fiscal outlook.

Case Competition Prompt

Public policy interacts with every facet of our lives, from combating climate change and ensuring access to higher education, to administering social services programs and funding public infrastructure. The policy decisions our elected leaders make therefore have enormous consequences for our nation's future, requiring difficult trade-offs of costs and benefits and between issues of equity, fairness, and efficiency.

With the national debt currently outpacing U.S. economic growth and only projected to climb, policymakers must recognize their responsibility to secure a sustainable economic future for the next generation. This begins with balancing the country's federal budget by making tough choices that impact both economic growth and social welfare—from spending on national defense, public education, and family support programs, to the amount of taxes individuals and businesses pay.

With this in mind, please develop a response to the following questions:

What are the consequences of continuing on the country's current fiscal path, particularly for younger generations?

What policy reforms — through a combination of both spending and revenue — could U.S. lawmakers implement to create a more sustainable fiscal outlook?

Policy decisions of this magnitude, however, can quickly become unwieldy to address at one time. As such, given the scope of this case competition, please consider solutions to the above questions in the context of **one** of the following policy areas:

1

Climate & Energy Innovation

To reach the nation's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, the United States will need to implement policies that dramatically reduce the effects of carbon dioxide concentration, increasing temperatures, and rising sea levels. To do so, the country can look to ramp up innovation and deployment of technologies to produce, transport, and store clean energy. How can the U.S. reach its goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 in a way that maintains energy affordability, reliability, and equity? What budgetary trade-offs would you have to make, if any, to implement the proposed policy solution(s)?

2

Higher Education Affordability

Since the 1980s, the average costs of attending college — tuition, room and board, and fees — have skyrocketed, making the prospect of higher education increasingly inaccessible for many American students. Moreover, while costs keep rising, public investment in higher education at the federal, state, and local levels has slowed. College affordability remains an enduring issue and policy responses have failed to address needed structural changes to the system. What are the consequences of maintaining the status quo? What policy solution(s) should U.S. lawmakers pursue to permanently address college affordability in a fiscally responsible and equitable way?

3

Health Care Spending

In 2022, the Congressional Budget Office projected that spending on major federal health care programs will be one of the fastest growing and largest shares of the U.S. federal budget, after interest on the national debt. Rising health care costs and a growing aging population, with high consumption of and demand for health care, contribute to this trend. The next generation will be increasingly responsible for addressing the trajectory of our nation's spending on health care to ensure our system is both equitable and efficient and provides better quality at a lower cost. Given that federal health care programs provide vital services to Americans, how can the U.S. meet increasing demand in the long run? What trade-offs should policymakers consider to support a robust and accessible, yet fiscally responsible, health care system?

Dive Deeper: Understanding the Issues through a Fiscal Lens

Use this section to drill down into the policy issues and understand them through a fiscal lens.

1 Climate & Energy Innovation

Issue

Rising global temperatures, resulting from human reliance on energy from fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas, demonstrate the increasingly detrimental impacts of current energy production on the environment. When burned, fossil fuels emit greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, for example) which trap heat in the atmosphere and cause the planet to become warmer. To address this problem, the United States has set a goal to reach net-zero emissions — when the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced is offset by the amount that is eliminated in the atmosphere — by 2050. Achieving net-zero emissions over the next three decades will require significant public investments in decarbonization efforts, which reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as enhance carbon storage in agricultural reserves.

Seeking innovative energy solutions that reduce our nation's current dependency on fossil fuels can help partially address broad climate concerns and the fiscal consequences of a changing climate. Unlike policies with largely domestic implications, however, reducing greenhouse gas emissions will inherently have a global impact. Decarbonization solutions to reduce emissions — whether through technological innovation or changes in current energy production — will not only impact the federal deficit, but also have ripple effects across global trade, supply chain processes, and geopolitical alliances, demonstrating the complexity of finding a national solution to a global problem.

Fiscal Challenges

Environmental disruption caused by climate change negatively impacts economic growth: for every 1°C increase in global temperature, the economy contracts by approximately 1.2% on average. As such, climate change is projected to stall GDP growth by as much as 1% per year between 2020 and 2050 without intervention by policymakers. The detrimental impacts of climate change on our fiscal outlook result in large part from the varied sectors that contribute to high levels of greenhouse gas emissions, such as transportation (27%), electricity production (25%), and industry (24%), suggesting that economic and environmental impacts are heavily intertwined in attempts to combat climate change. Given this reality, potential solutions will require cross-sector cooperation and considerations.

In fiscal year 2022, the U.S. government spent $1.1 billion on initiatives to combat the effects of climate change at home and abroad, equating to approximately 4.3% of GDP. While public investment in the fight against climate change is key for success, private investment is also needed to further support energy innovation that is both affordable and reliable long-term. However, research, development, and impact assessments to gauge the success of climate interventions are costly and may take decades, leading to increased risk — and hesitancy — from private investors about profitability. In the hopes that future returns from more energy-efficient solutions will offset the current costs of investing in energy innovation, the federal government has offered subsidies and tax incentives to increase private investment and considered levying taxes on emitters of greenhouse gases. It is therefore abundantly clear that fiscal policy aimed at incentivizing sustainable public and private investments in clean energy innovation will help the U.S. achieve progress towards its goal of net-zero emissions.

A Call to Action for the Next Generation

The next generation's lives will be significantly impacted by the compounding effects of climate change. Policy solutions require both their buy-in and ingenuity to ensure the solutions we adopt are sustainable in the long term. By applying a fiscal lens to the problem of climate change, the next generation can ensure solutions are reliable, affordable, and durable.

2 Higher Education Affordability

Issue

Higher education affordability—one's ability to enroll and complete an educational program without significant financial barriers—remains a persistent concern within the current education landscape. The development of a skilled, educated workforce is essential for economic prosperity, as it reduces reliance on government programs, increases wages, generates new tax revenue, and leads to better utilization of taxpayer funds. However, the price of a U.S. college education has increased significantly over the past few decades, meaning students are borrowing more than ever to finance their education. As a result, many students struggle to repay those loans or end up in default, causing significant personal financial hardship to borrowers.

Fiscal Challenges

Public investments at the federal, state, and local levels contribute to the funding of higher education in the U.S., in addition to students' costs of attendance, such as tuition, fees, room, and board. However, since the 1980s, government funding for colleges and universities has decreased substantially, which has, in turn, shifted much of the burden to cover these costs onto students. As a result, colleges and universities supplemented the lapse in public support by steadily increasing tuition costs. Over the last 30 years, tuition and fees increased by 158% (from $4,160 to $10,740) at public four-year institutions and 96% (from $19,360 to $38,070) at private non-profit four-year institutions, which has forced students to take out larger loans to make up the cost difference, intensifying the nation's higher education affordability—and therefore accessibility—crisis.

As a percentage of GDP, federal student loan debt accumulation from all institutions (6.9%) outpaces all federal education spending (4.1%). Moreover, student loan debt accumulation has increased at rates disproportionate to the number of borrowers. From 2007 to 2020, federal student loan debt grew from $642 billion to $1.6 trillion (a 144% increase), while the number of borrowers only increased by 52%.

Historically, the federal government has reported a net profit from lending to students, due to revenues collected from interest payments on loans. However, worsening economic assumptions about students' ability to repay their loans in full and on time will negatively impact the long-term budget outlook, if the status quo remains. While policy alternatives, such as student loan forgiveness, have attempted to address issues of affordability in the short-term, they will ultimately lead to a hefty bill for taxpayers in the long-term. If higher education affordability continues to go unaddressed while debt accumulation and cost increases worsen, the ripple effects will increasingly impact the country's economic stability, shifting the burden to taxpayers to foot the bill.

A Call to Action for the Next Generation

Residual issues stemming from inadequate fiscal policy solutions to curb rising costs and debt continue to burden both individuals and society. If more students continue to take on increasingly unaffordable levels of loan debt, rates of default are also likely to increase, which will impact their ability to afford commodities that require loans in the future. Thus, the lack of affordability in higher education today impacts students' abilities to make significant purchases later in their lives, such as purchasing a home, starting a family, or saving for retirement. This unsustainable trend underscores ways in which inaction upholds barriers to attaining and building wealth and prosperity for the next generation.

3 Health Care Spending

Issue

Americans access health care in a variety of ways, including through public and private insurance plans offered by individual and institutional providers. Given the complexity of the public-private health care system in the United States, perennial challenges center around coverage and cost. The U.S. primarily offers federally subsidized health care programs that target certain populations, including: Medicaid, which offers coverage to low-income Americans; the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides health insurance to children in families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but too little to purchase private health insurance; and Medicare, which offers coverage to individuals with disabilities and those aged 65 and older. As of 2019, over 90% of the US population currently has some form of health insurance: approximately 50% have employer-sponsored coverage, 34% are covered under Medicare or Medicaid, and another 7% have some other form of insurance, leaving only 9% of the population uninsured.

Fiscal Challenges

Rapidly increasing health care costs in the U.S. significantly affect both the public and private sectors. National health care expenditures currently account for 19.7% of GDP, one of the largest U.S. government expenditures. While funding for health care services is allocated for a variety of reasons, 20% goes to support Medicare services and 16% to Medicaid and CHIP. Over the next decade, national health care spending is projected to increase at a rate of 5.4% per year, escalating to a total of $6.2 trillion by 2028. These costs are born by taxpayers at both the federal and state levels.

The individual cost-burden of the U.S. health care system also disincentivizes people from seeking treatment early, causing both public and private providers to face much higher costs when preventable conditions remain untreated. Even those with private insurance still face high out-of-pocket costs. In the last decade, the cost of employer-sponsored health insurance has increased by 47%. Premiums and deductibles paid by those with private insurance accounted for 11.6% of median household income in 2020—an increase of 9.1% over 10 years. Price increases like these have a significant negative financial impact on both employees and employers. They also disproportionately impact the uninsured, who suffer the greatest consequences of ever-increasing health care costs.

Policymakers thus have the difficult task of determining what role the federal government, individual states, taxpayers, and employers should play in funding and providing access to health care services.

A Call to Action for the Next Generation

Beyond structural concerns for our economy as a whole, rising individual health care costs impact the day-to-day lives and productive futures of Americans. Our nation's youngest generation will be disproportionately affected by this issue, as they will bear the brunt of costs for federal programs like Medicare and Medicaid in coming years, at the expense of funding other fiscal priorities such as education and climate change.

The newest members of the workforce have the most to gain from rethinking the status quo and reforming the fiscal burden of health care on individuals, institutions, and the federal government. Fiscal policy solutions that address the ballooning costs of care are also integral to creating a sustainable social safety net that responsibly provides health care services for generations to come.

Submission Details & Eligibility

Teams should include 4-7 students working together to prepare a **4–7 minute recorded presentation** addressing the nation's fiscal future in the context of the selected policy area and explaining your team's policy solution(s). In addition to your video submission, please craft a **one-page policy memo** to effectively and creatively disseminate your solution(s) to policymakers and relevant stakeholders. Well-constructed submissions will take into consideration how economics, policy, and politics overlap when developing durable solutions. For a more detailed breakdown of how submissions will be evaluated, please review the Judging Criteria.

Submission Details

- Faculty will submit the solution(s) for their courses via Basecamp.
- Submit before **March 13, 2023** for optional feedback from the Up to Us staff. Feedback must be incorporated by teams and re-submitted by the final deadline below.
- The final submission deadline for solutions is **April 14, 2023**.
- Winners will be notified via the faculty/staff member on **May 8, 2023**.

Submission Eligibility

- All solutions must be submitted through a faculty or staff member of the American Democracy Project's Civic Solutions cohort.
- Undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to participate.
- All participating students must be located in the United States and enrolled in a college or university in the United States.
- Submissions must include a 4-7 minute video and a 1-page policy memo.
- Teams must have a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 7 students per team.

Judging Criteria

The following criteria will be used by the expert panel of judges to evaluate submissions and select the winning teams.

30 points Fiscal Impact

Teams are asked to consider the chosen prompt through a fiscal lens to better understand that all policy decisions require difficult trade-offs. Teams should broadly consider the fiscal impacts of their proposed policy(ies), which might include the costs of implementation, short- and long-term economic impacts, and how it could be funded.

20 points Policy Innovation

Teams are asked to be creative in developing their policy solutions by looking to existing proposals as inspiration for their own proposal. Solutions can adapt the analytic scope of existing proposals, offer a new package of considerations built from current proposals, or present an original proposal to address the chosen prompt. Teams should also consider *administrative feasibility*, which asks teams to assess how easily the solution(s) could be implemented nationally given existing programs, resources, and priorities.

20 points Bipartisanship

Teams are asked to develop a durable, practical solution to their chosen issue. Doing so involves thinking through policies from conservative, moderate, and progressive perspectives and considering the current political climate. Teams are encouraged to consider the *political feasibility* of their proposal, which asks teams to consider how realistic it is that the solution(s) would be enacted with bipartisan support today.

20 points Justification

Teams are asked to provide a logical, coherent argument supported by external resources and independent research. Teams should also balance the sources used to develop their argument, considering the varied perspectives of policymakers, academics, and politicians to support their solutions. Additionally, teams must provide context for why the next generation of leaders is more heavily impacted by the issue at hand, and thus should be more invested in finding durable policy solutions to the selected problem. All sources used to inform conclusions must be cited within the final presentation materials.

10 points Quality of Content

Teams are asked to develop a concise, informative presentation and written supplement that examines their solution(s) with considerations for economic, policy, and political implications. Teams are asked to appropriately target their presentation materials for the proper audience– relevant policymakers and stakeholders.

Appendix I: Additional Resources

Databases (Access provided by educational institutions)

- Congressional Research Reports
- CQ Political Moneyline
- CQ Researcher
- CQ Vital Statistics on American Politics
- Find Policy
- Health Policy Reference Center
- Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research
- National Bureau of Economic Research Working Papers
- Policy Commons
- Policy File Index
- Political Science Database
- ProQuest Congressional
- ProQuest Political Science
- voxgov
- World Bank Data Catalog
- World Bank

Government

- Bureau of Economic Analysis
- Congressional Budget Office
- Congressional Research Service
- Government Accountability Office
- House Energy and Commerce Committee
- Office of Management and Budget
- Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
- U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics
- U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

University Research Centers

- Mercatus Center at George Mason University
- Northwestern Institute for Policy Research
- Princeton University Bendheim Center for Finance
- Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research
- The Wharton School of The University of Pennsylvania
- University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

Interactive Tools

- Climate Interactive
- Federal Balancing Act - Budget Simulator
- Headwaters Economics
- Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System
- National Center for Education Statistics

Private Sector

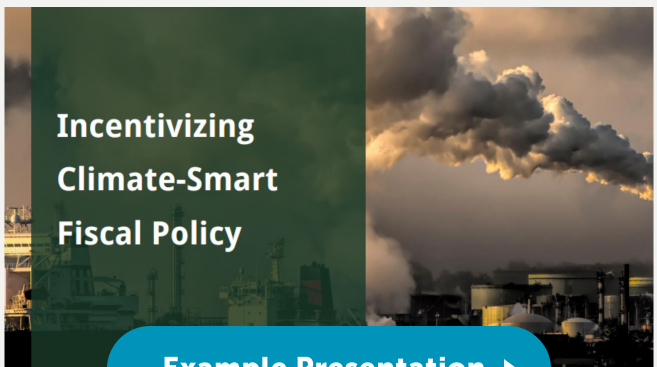
- Deloitte
- EY
- Grant Thornton
- JP Morgan
- JP Morgan Chase Institute
- KPMG
- McKinsey & Company
- PricewaterhouseCoopers

Think Tanks

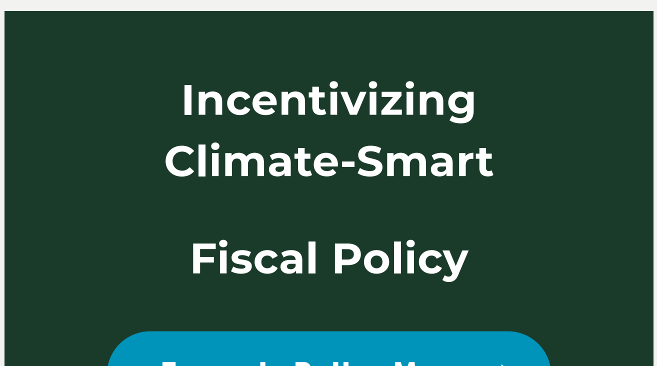
- American Action Forum
- American Conservation Coalition
- American Energy Innovation Counsel
- American Enterprise Institute
- Aspen Institute
- Bipartisan Policy Center
- Brookings Institution
- Cato Institute
- Center for American Progress
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget
- Economic Innovation Group
- Economic Policy Institute
- Heritage Foundation
- Milken Institute
- National Bureau of Economic Research
- New America
- Peter G. Peterson Foundation
- Pew Research Center
- Progressive Policy Institute
- RAND Corporation
- Tax Foundation
- Tax Policy Center

Appendix II: Example Submissions

Example submissions give students an idea of one version of what an exemplary presentation and policy memo might look like. Creativity is encouraged in the delivery of either component.



Example Presentation



Example Policy Memo

Disclaimer: The example presentation gives students an idea of the type of content that should be included in their final video submission. Please note that it does not include the entire script that should accompany students' recorded submission, nor all of the possible ideas and spoken nuances that would be conveyed if the entire talk was delivered in a complete video submission.

Appendix III: Timeline, Prizes & Prize Eligibility

2023 Timeline

- **January:** Case Competition launches
- **March 13:** Deadline for Optional Early Bird Review
- **April 14:** Final Submission Deadline
- **May 8:** Winners Notified
- **May 31 - June 3:** One student from each of the top 5 teams will attend the 2023 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Conference in Boston, MA to present their solutions.

Prizes

- First place team will win $5,000.
- The Second through Fifth place teams will each win $1,000.
- Students will be eligible to apply to Up to Us paid fellowship and internship programs, as well as course scholarships for Harvard Business School Online.
- The top 5 team leaders will receive an all-expenses-paid professional development trip to the 2023 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Meeting in Boston, MA from May 31-June 3,2023. Students will present their solutions at this conference.
- The winning team may also have the opportunity to participate in traditional and social media interviews.

Winners will be notified on **May 8, 2023**.

Prize Eligibility

- To receive prize money, each participant must have a valid tax ID number and be at least 18 years old (Exceptions: if your state of residence is Alabama or Nebraska, you must be at least 19 years old; if your state of residence is Mississippi, you must be at least 21 years old.)
- Up to Us is unable to pay prize money directly to international students who are located in the United States. Up to Us will provide prize payments to the university, which will be responsible for its proper disbursement to the prize recipient. Students are responsible for working with their university to enable this process.
- All travel paid for by Up to Us must be within the continental United States. No international travel or visa arrangements will be funded or organized by the organization.
- Up to Us reserves the right to cancel, alter, limit, and/or adapt in-person events due to precautions related to COVID-19.
- Please refer to the Participant Agreement for full program eligibility and rules.

Appendix IV: Take Action!

Make your voice heard by taking action for a sustainable fiscal future in the following ways!

Please note that these calls to action are not required parts of the Case Competition, but highly encouraged, impactful ways to make your voice — and your solutions —heard!

Communications to Elected Officials

- ***Note for Faculty/Staff:*** As part of the ADP Civic Solutions Cohort, in line with ADP's call for participation, each course is required to conduct congressional outreach at least eight times throughout the semester in any of the below methods.
- Reach out to your state and/or local elected officials via:

- **Letters**
- **Tweets**
- **Emails**
- **Phone Calls**
- **Other — get creative!**

Up to Us Pledge

Take the Up to Us Pledge to show your support for bipartisan, fiscally responsible policy

Sign the Up to Us Pledge ▶ *Be sure to note your college/university when signing the pledge!*

Get Involved with another Up to Us Program! *Submit Your Content*

Send Up to Us a video, podcast or blog answering the following question:

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