



FAQ document for Congressional App Challenge

Congressional App Challenge FAQ regarding

1. **MRA use:** Use of official resources for the Congressional App Challenge (CAC) must comply with the Members' Congressional Handbook. Reference specifically the Handbook section titled, "Use of Official Resources to Support an Officially-sanctioned Competition." As each Member's situation is specific to their district, to know what the MRA can be spent on, please contact the Committee on House Administration:
 - (R) Member Services: 202-226-0647
 - (D) Member Services: 202-225-2061

2. **Training (technical assistance) for contest participants:** If your office is planning to offer technical assistance (i.e. training, instruction, education, or a mentor session) the MOC office should ensure that the session was 'widely accessible,' meaning that the event would have to be:
 - publicly posted for attendees
 - shared by the CAC
 - broadcast / live-streamed so students from anywhere can have access

For additional information on Technical Assistance please refer to the Members' Congressional Handbook section titled, "Requirements for Determination as an Officially-sanctioned Competition" subsection #4.

3. Mailing / Franking

- Members of Congress can send letters to schools, teachers, principals, etc. on official letterhead inviting their students to participate in the Congressional App Challenge
- If the event is hosted by the Member, the Member can send and/or share the invitation to the event (on official letterhead, on social media, etc.)
- All correspondence distributed by the Member Office must comply with Franking content regulations regardless of the number of pieces. If the correspondence will be over 499, the office must get a Franking Advisory Opinion.
- NO solicitations can be written on official letterhead. For further guidance, contact the Ethics Committee.
- For any other questions, please contact the Franking Commission at 202-226-0647 (Majority) and 202-225-9337 (Minority).



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4. Solicitation Waiver

- If your office plans to solicit for donations or prizes, be sure to have the [Request to Solicit for Officially Sanctioned Competitions](#) on file with the Ethics Committee specifically for the CAC
- The waiver is available at ethics.house.gov
- Please note, you need this waiver on file even if you plan to solicit donations and prizes from governmental entities

5. Venues for Events To Promote the CAC:

Government venue

- If the CAC event is hosted in a government space (such as a public library, public high school, state college, etc.), the Member is allowed to host their event there

Paying for a private venue

- A Member is allowed to use the MRA to host a CAC event at a venue according to the Congressional Handbook rules
- Remember, campaign funds may not be used for any expenses related to the CAC

Donation of a private venue (makerspace, company training space, incubator, etc)

- If the private venue is a 'widely available benefit', meaning anyone can use the space for free, then the Member is allowed to host event here
- If the market value of the private venue rental is worth less than \$50 to rent, then the Member is allowed to host their event in that space
- If the market value of the venue is MORE than \$50, then the Member office would have to connect the venue with the Internet Education Foundation (IEF) to discuss feasible options