Challenge.gov
Government Challenges, Your Solutions

WINNER PROFILE

➡ **Meet: Frank Schilder**
Research Director, Thomson Reuters
St. Paul, Minnesota

➡ **The Challenge: City Software Development Kit (City SDK) Data Solutions**

The Census Bureau called on civic hackers, government staff, developers, designers, and other entrepreneurs to use its City SDK toolbox to build web tools and apps that use open data to improve the local economy, environment, housing, education, and social justice conditions in their communities.

➡ **The Prize:**

The opportunity to demo the app for the Census Bureau's chief technology officer and Commerce Department's chief data officer. (This solution also won a people's choice award.)

💡 **The Solution:**

Accessibility Scores, an application that aims to satisfy the specific needs of people with disabilities, helping them easily find a place to live or travel in the state of Minnesota.

📞 **For More About the Winner:**

Frank Schilder
Email: schilderf@gmail.com

SUCCESS: IN HIS OWN WORDS

How has participating in this challenge helped you advance your solution?

Digging deep into various data sets has increased my awareness of the need for finding appropriate accommodation for the disabled citizens. Presenting the solution and receiving feedback also helped to see where we could possibly focus our energy to improve the app.

What is the impact of your solution for government, your community, and society?

We hope to have a positive impact on how people with disabilities can have better access to housing and how they can increase their mobility. Information on safety, affordable housing, walkability, hospital access, and an overall sense of a community among people with similar problems is easily obtainable, but putting all these sources into one big picture is still difficult. We hope that people who are looking for this information -- perhaps because they are moving to or within Minnesota -- find our app an interesting and useful resource.

In addition, aggregating this information may also inform policy makers in their decision process for improving the overall livability of our cities and communities because it could inform them where to build the next hospital, the next bike path or pedestrian zone, or where special transportation services may be most effective.

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