



AM Best's 2026 Student Challenge Handbook



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview

Call for Submissions.....	3
Top Three Submissions Receive.....	3
Prizes.....	3
Student Challenge Statement.....	3
Timeline.....	3

Submission, Review and Voting

Initial Round Submission Process	4
Final Round Submission Process.....	4
Review and Voting Process.....	4

Requirements

General Requirements.....	5
Initial Round Requirements	5
Final Round Requirements.....	6

Finalist Information 7

General Requirements	7
Submission Period.....	7
Voting Period	7
Winner Declared	7

Choose Your Contest Topic 8

Scoring Rubric..... 9

Application Materials

Application Form.....	10
Video Contact Information Form	12
Submission Eligibility Form.....	13
Faculty Advisor Form.....	14
Media Release and Assignment Form.....	15

AM Best's Student Challenge – Previous Finalists' Submissions17

Addendum: Sample Abstracts

Sample Abstract: FlexSure: Redefining Insurance for the Gig Economy	18
Sample Abstract: Closing the Flood Gap: A Public-Private Framework for Expanding Flood Coverage	21
Sample Abstract: SentinelAI: Enhancing Fairness and Transparency in Insurance Decision-Making	24

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

AM Best's 2026 Student Challenge (the Student Challenge) is an insurance solution-based competition designed to empower undergraduate and graduate students by taking them beyond the classroom. The Student Challenge promotes thought leadership and introduces students to careers in insurance, risk management, finance, accounting, and actuarial science.

The Student Challenge is part of AM Best's ongoing efforts to support the development of new talent in the insurance industry. The goal is to promote thought leadership and career development for students through competition.

AM Best supports a strong insurance sector and the development of individuals and future leaders.

TOP THREE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVE:



Interview
with
AM Best TV



Feature article in
Best's Review[®]
magazine



Recognition on
select
AM Best social
media channels



Academic
medal & trophy



Press Release



Prizes

PRIZES

AM Best's 2026 Student Challenge offers prizes of \$5,000 for the first-place individual or team; \$3,000 for the second-place winner; and \$2,000 for the third-place winner. Prizes will be divided equally among team members.

The prize(s) awarded through this contest are considered taxable income by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and may be subject to federal, state and local taxes. Winners are solely responsible for any applicable taxes associated with the prize. Depending on the amount awarded, a Form 1099-MISC may be issued to the individual or team members in accordance with IRS regulations.

The 2026 Student Challenge also offers faculty/institution recognition of \$5,000 to the college/university of the first-place winner. Money donated to a college or university would be considered a donation and would be at the discretion of the university to distribute to the department and faculty advisor(s) involved.

STUDENT CHALLENGE STATEMENT

AM Best invites student submissions that propose innovative solutions for managing insurance risks and strengthening the industry. Submissions must focus on one of the three provided topics in this handbook.

TIMELINE

1. Initial round submissions due via email – **Monday, October 20, 2025**
2. Initial round submissions reviewed by AM Best Rating Services staff, and three selected student teams notified via email of advancement to final round – **Monday, December 1, 2025**
3. Final round submissions due via email – **Thursday, January 22, 2026**
4. Voting Period by AM Best Rating Services staff – **Tuesday, March 17 through Friday, April 3, 2026**
5. Top three Finalists notified of winner via email – **Thursday, April 9, 2026**
6. AM Best's 2026 Student Challenge – Winner ("Winner") published in *Best's Review* – **Monday, June 1, 2026**

Please direct all questions to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com

INITIAL ROUND SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. Student teams are to submit an abstract of 750 words or less. The abstract must specifically address the Student Challenge Statement (see page 3) and outline the solution to the Student Challenge.
2. Abstracts and remaining application materials are to be submitted via email by Monday, October 20, 2025. Submission of all completed forms is required in order to advance to the final round.
3. Student teams that are selected for advancement to the final round will be notified via email on Monday, December 1, 2025. The selection will be done by the AM Best Rating Services staff, based on the characteristics of the submission.

FINAL ROUND SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. Finalists are to submit a 5- to 10-minute recorded presentation (video or slides with voice over) that will further develop and refine their solution. These presentations will be posted on the Student Challenge website for viewing. Student team submissions will be reviewed and selected by an internal panel of AM Best Rating Services staff.
2. Final videos are to be submitted via email by Thursday, January 22, 2026.

REVIEW AND VOTING PROCESS

1. Submissions for the initial round will be reviewed and selected for advancement to the final round by an internal panel of AM Best Rating Services staff. Advancement will be based on the quality and potential of the submission.
2. Finalists will be notified of the results via email on Thursday, April 9, 2026 .

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Student team members must be currently attending the same college/university.
2. All student team members must be at least 18 years of age.
3. Each student team must have a faculty advisor from the team's college/university.

INITIAL ROUND REQUIREMENTS

1. All entrants must be undergraduate or graduate students currently enrolled in colleges and universities that offer education in insurance, risk management, finance or actuarial studies. Participating colleges/universities are allowed multiple entries by individuals or teams of up to four.
2. Materials for submission include:
 - Abstract: maximum of 750 words outlining a solution related to the Student Challenge topics in Word
 - Completed and signed copies of:
 - Application Form
 - Video Contact Information Form
 - Submission Eligibility Form
 - Faculty Advisor Form
 - Media Release and Assignment Form
 - Résumé or curriculum vitae (CV) for each team member
 - Description of college/university program
 - External images included in this presentation must be appropriately credited and used in accordance with copyright laws.
3. Submissions that do not include the above-mentioned materials will not be considered.
4. Student teams must submit individual copies of the Video Contact Information Form, Submission Eligibility Form, Faculty Advisor Form, and résumé or CV. Only one copy of the abstract, Application Form, Faculty Advisor Form and description of college/university program needs to be submitted per team.
5. Abstracts and completed applications are due on **Monday, October 20, 2025**. All materials must be submitted via email to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com.
6. All entrants will be notified of their advancement status via email on **Monday, December 1, 2025**.

FINAL ROUND REQUIREMENTS

1. A 5- to 10-minute recorded presentation (video or slides with voiceover) that includes the following:
 - Brief personal introduction (name(s), college/university)
 - Overview of solution and how it works
 - Implementation strategies
 - What sets this solution apart from existing solutions
2. Written overview of solution (in Word), maximum of 500 words. The summary should include the following:
 - What the solution is and how it addresses the existing problem
 - What are the benefits/impacts of the solution
3. Completed and digitally signed individual copies of the Media Release and Assignment Form for each entrant.
4. Interview with AM Best TV:
 - Interview with AM Best TV will be scheduled for mid- to late April 2026.
 - Further details to be provided by Barbara Edwards, via email from Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com.
5. The content of the videos or slides with voiceover, written overview and interviews with AM Best TV will be used in AM Best materials, including videos, press releases and social media posts.
6. Videos and written overviews must be submitted via email to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com by **Thursday, January 22, 2026**.

General Requirements

1. The three finalists will be selected from three different academic institutions.

Submission Period

1. Final round videos or slides with voiceover and written overviews must be submitted via email to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com by **Thursday, January 22, 2026**.

Voting Period

1. Student team submissions will be reviewed and selected by an internal panel of AM Best Rating Services staff.
2. The voting period will be open starting on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026**.
3. Voting will close on **Friday, April 3, 2026**.

Winner Declared

1. The solution earning the highest score from our expert panel will be declared the Winner.
2. All Finalists will be notified of the results via email on **Thursday, April 9, 2026**.
3. Videos will be accessible on AM Best's YouTube channel and ambest.com after the Student Challenge closes.
4. The winning solution will be featured in press releases as well as an article in the June 2026 edition of *Best's Review*. Digital copies will be shared when available.
5. The winning solution will be featured on AM Best TV and various AM Best social media platforms, including LinkedIn and Twitter/X. If applicable, Finalists will be asked to provide their social media handles to be tagged.
6. In addition to a monetary prize, all Finalists will receive an academic medal to commemorate their success. The faculty advisor will receive a trophy to be given to the college/university to commemorate the success of the team. If applicable, Finalists will be asked to provide a mailing address where the medals and trophy can be sent.

Choose Your Contest Topic

Entrants must select one of the three themes below to enter.



For AM Best's 2026 Student Challenge, each team must select one of the three topics below to guide their research and final submission. Choose the topic that best aligns with your team's interests, strengths, and academic focus. Describe your innovative solution to one of the following three topics.

Topic	Background
1 Monitoring AI Risk and Claims Situation: Design a tool/process that allows (re)insurance companies to demonstrate to regulators, consumers, etc. that they are able to effectively monitor various AI programs/utilization through the claims process (or underwriting, policy admin, etc.)	Background: AI increasingly influences claims and underwriting decisions but there is a lack of oversight to help detect and prevent biases, errors, or unethical practices that could harm policyholders or undermine trust in the system. By enabling carriers' stakeholders to track how AI is used and its impact on outcomes, this monitoring fosters responsible innovation, regulatory compliance, and consumer confidence in the evolving insurance landscape.
2 Expanding Flood Coverage Situation: Design a solution that leverages public and private resources to increase the utilization of flood insurance in under-served markets.	Background: Developing solutions to increase the utilization of flood insurance in underserved communities is crucial because these areas are often more vulnerable to the financial and physical impacts of flooding due to limited resources and infrastructure. Without adequate insurance, residents face greater challenges recovering from flood events, which can perpetuate cycles of poverty and displacement. By improving access to, education and awareness of flood insurance, communities can build resilience, reduce long-term recovery costs, and better protect lives and property against the increasing risks posed by climate change.
3 Meeting the Needs of the Gig Economy Situation: Design insurance solutions for freelancers/gig workers/content creators including business interruption and professional liability exposures	Background: It is important for content creators to have proper insurance because their work often involves legal, financial, and reputational risks. Whether dealing with copyright claims, defamation lawsuits, equipment damage or data loss, content creators can face significant setbacks without adequate coverage. Proper insurance helps protect their income, creative assets, and ability to continue producing content in the face of unexpected challenges, offering peace of mind and long-term stability in a highly dynamic and competitive industry.

Note: If your team requires additional information to support your chosen topic, please contact Barbara Edwards at Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com to inquire about the availability of relevant AM Best data.

Please direct all questions to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com

Scoring Rubric



	1	2	3	4	5
Degree of innovation	Solution is not an innovative idea and is the same as a current product, process, service or business model	Solution is a minimally innovative idea that relies too heavily on a current product, process, service or business model	Solution is a moderately innovative idea that expands upon a current product, process, service or business model	Solution is a sufficiently innovative idea that expands upon a current product, process, service or business model	Solution is a transformative idea that leads to a new or significantly improved product, process, service or business model
Feasibility/practicality	The solution cannot be realistically implemented due to a complete lack of resources, support and/or feasibility	The solution is unlikely to be implemented and may be difficult to secure resources or support but may possibly be feasible	The solution could be implemented but may be difficult to secure resources and support, but is likely feasible	The solution is feasible and can realistically be implemented if proper resources and support are secured	The solution is feasible and can realistically be implemented with easily accessible resources and support
Comparison to existing products	Does not address the differences and similarities with existing solutions and competitors	Inadequately explains the differences and similarities with existing solutions and competitors	Satisfactorily explains the differences and similarities with existing solutions and competitors	Sufficiently explains the differences and similarities with existing solutions and competitors	Clearly explains the differences and similarities with existing solutions and competitors
Degree of impact	The solution provides no value to the targeted market; the solution does not address what value is created and for whom	The solution provides minimal value to the targeted market; it is vague as to what value is created and for whom	The solution provides moderate value to the targeted market; it is somewhat clear as to what value is created and for whom	The solution provides sufficient value to the targeted market; it is clear as to what value is created and for whom	The solution provides strong value to the targeted market; it is exceptionally clear as to what value is created and for whom
Implementation plan	No implementation plan in place for taking the solution to market	Minimally clear or unrealistic implementation plan in place for taking the solution to market	Satisfactory implementation plan in place for taking the solution to market	Sufficient implementation plan is in place for taking the solution to market	Clear and realistic implementation plan is in place for taking the solution to market
Overall presentation	Presenter/presentation does not clearly convey the value or feasibility of the solution	Presenter demonstrates minimal presentation and related skills and has minimal/poor visuals	Presenter demonstrates satisfactory presentation and related skills and has satisfactory visuals	Presenter demonstrates good presentation and related skills and has sufficient visuals	Outstanding presentation with comprehensive and engaging visuals
Student Challenge rules and requirements	Meets none of the Student Challenge requirements	Meets few of the Student Challenge requirements	Meets some of the Student Challenge requirements	Meets most of the Student Challenge requirements	Meets all of the Student Challenge requirements

Please direct all questions to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com

Student Challenge Application Materials



APPLICATION FORM FOR AM BEST'S 2026 STUDENT CHALLENGE

Deadline: **Monday, October 20, 2025**. Please email completed forms to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com

TEAM MEMBER 1

Student Name (Please Print): _____
Major: _____
Type of Degree: _____ Graduation Year: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
College/University Name: _____
Program Name: _____
Faculty Advisor Name: _____
Faculty Advisor Email: _____
Student Challenge Submission Title: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

TEAM MEMBER 2 (IF APPLICABLE)

Student Name (Please Print): _____
Major: _____
Type of Degree: _____ Graduation Year: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
College/University Name: _____
Program Name: _____
Faculty Advisor Name: _____
Faculty Advisor Email: _____
Student Challenge Submission Title: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Application materials are listed under Initial Round Requirements (see page 5).

Please direct all questions to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com

Student Challenge Application Materials



APPLICATION FORM FOR AM BEST'S 2026 STUDENT CHALLENGE

Deadline: **Monday, October 20, 2025**. Please email completed forms to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com

TEAM MEMBER 3 (IF APPLICABLE)

Student Name (Please Print): _____
Major: _____
Type of Degree: _____ Graduation Year: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
College/University Name: _____
Program Name: _____
Faculty Advisor Name: _____
Faculty Advisor Email: _____
Student Challenge Submission Title: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

TEAM MEMBER 4 (IF APPLICABLE)

Student Name (Please Print): _____
Major: _____
Type of Degree: _____ Graduation Year: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
College/University Name: _____
Program Name: _____
Faculty Advisor Name: _____
Faculty Advisor Email: _____
Student Challenge Submission Title: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Application materials are listed under Initial Round Requirements (see page 5).

Please direct all questions to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com

Student Challenge Application Materials



VIDEO CONTACT INFORMATION FORM FOR AM BEST'S 2026 STUDENT CHALLENGE

Please note that our preferred video contact methods are Microsoft Teams and Streamyard.

Student Name (Please Print): _____

College/University: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please direct all questions to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com

Student Challenge Application Materials



SUBMISSION ELIGIBILITY FORM FOR AM BEST'S 2026 STUDENT CHALLENGE

By entering, you represent and warrant to AM Best that your entry is original, has not been previously published, has not won any award, does not contain any material that would defame or otherwise violate or infringe upon the rights of any third party, including patents, copyrights, trademarks or rights of privacy or publicity, and will not violate any federal, state or local laws or ordinances.

You further represent and warrant that you have secured the requisite consent from any third party referenced in your entry. AM Best reserves the right in its sole and unfettered discretion to disqualify any entry that it believes does not comply with these official rules or that is not consistent with the spirit or theme of the Student Challenge. All entries become the property of AM Best when submitted and will not be acknowledged or returned to any entrant.

By signing below, I certify that I have read and understood the above statements and that I am 18 years of age or older.

Student Name (Please Print): _____

College/University: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please direct all questions to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com

Student Challenge Application Materials



FACULTY ADVISOR FORM FOR AM BEST'S 2026 STUDENT CHALLENGE

The faculty advisor's role is to acknowledge and approve the student team's participation on behalf of the college/university, and to confirm that all student team member(s) are currently enrolled students of the college/university. The faculty advisor may not contribute content to either the written report or presentation. The faculty advisor's primary responsibility is to provide guidance and direction to the student team throughout all levels of competition. The faculty advisor must be currently employed as a faculty/staff member by the student team's sponsoring college/university.

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand the role of the faculty advisor.

Faculty Advisor Name (Please Print): _____

College/University: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please direct all questions to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com

Student Challenge Application Materials



MEDIA RELEASE AND ASSIGNMENT FORM FOR AM BEST'S 2026 STUDENT CHALLENGE

I am a participant in AM Best's 2026 Student Challenge (the "Challenge"). I understand that during the Challenge my team or I may generate materials and works in various media, including print, digital and audiovisual format (the "Materials"). By signing this form, I hereby grant A.M. Best Company, Inc. ("AM Best"), its affiliates, and such parties designated by them,

- (i) the rights to display, publicly perform, exhibit, transmit, broadcast, reproduce, reprint, record, photograph, digitize, modify, alter, edit, adapt, create derivative works, exploit, sell, rent, license, otherwise use, and permit others to use the Materials, in whole or in part, and to upload into, train, develop, test and deploy artificial intelligence (AI) models using the Materials, and
- (ii) a non-exclusive license to use my name, image, likeness, appearance, voice, professional and personal biographical information, and other personal characteristics and private information submitted to AM Best or generated during or for the purposes of the Challenge.

The rights and license granted in this Agreement shall be perpetual, worldwide and without further consent from or royalty, payment, or other compensation to me.

The rights and license may be used for any purpose, including but not limited to advertising, public relations, publicity, packaging, and promotion of AM Best and its affiliates and their businesses, products, and services, and may be exercised in any medium or format now existing or hereafter created, including but not limited to, (i) magazines, newspapers, brochures and other print publications, (ii) digital, online, streaming, electronic, magnetic, and optical media, (iii) audiovisual media, home video and video on demand, and motion picture, (iv) television, radio, and other broadcast media, (v) advertising and promotional materials, press releases, and (vi) other digital transmission or delivery methods, mobile applications, websites, and social media platforms.

I hereby irrevocably transfer, assign, and otherwise convey to AM Best my entire right, title, and interest, if any, in and to the Materials and all copyrights and other intellectual property rights in the Materials arising in any jurisdiction, including all registration, renewal and reversion rights, and the right to sue to enforce such copyrights against infringers.

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, I hereby irrevocably waive all legal and equitable rights relating to all liabilities, claims, demands, actions, suits, damages, and expenses, including but not limited to claims for copyright or trademark infringement, infringement of moral rights, libel, defamation, invasion of any rights of privacy (including intrusion, false light, public disclosure of private facts, and misappropriation of name or likeness), violation of rights of publicity, physical or emotional injury or distress, or any similar claim or cause of action in tort, contract, or any other legal theory, now known or hereafter known in any jurisdiction throughout the world, arising directly or indirectly from the exercise of the rights under this form or the production, exhibition, exploitation, advertising, promotion, or other use of the Materials.

I represent and warrant to AM Best that I am at least eighteen (18) years of age, have read this Agreement before signing it, fully understand its contents, and I have full right, power, and authority to enter into this Agreement and grant the rights hereunder.

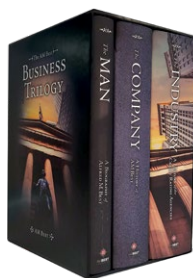
If for any reason, including incapacity, AM Best is unable to secure my signature on any document needed to apply for, perfect, or otherwise acquire title to the intellectual property rights granted to it under this form, or to enforce such rights, I hereby designate AM Best as my attorney-in-fact and agent, solely and exclusively to act for and on my behalf to execute and file such documents with the same legal force and effect as if executed by me and for no other purpose.

Student Name (Please Print): _____

College/University: _____

Signature: _____

Date signed: _____



☐ I'm interested in obtaining a complimentary copy of the AM Best Business Trilogy. I understand this will be sent at no cost to me and that someone will contact me for a shipping address.

AM Best's Student Challenge – Previous Finalists' Submissions



Winner: Tropical Storm Parametric Microinsurance Solution in Latin America and the Caribbean: UW-Madison – Wisconsin School of Business

Hernán Burgos and Alexander Porte's idea would provide coverage to low-income individuals and micro enterprises in LAC coastal regions using real-time meteorological data.

Finalist: Insurance Education Tool for New & Small Business - Florida State University

Tom Budz's idea would help small business owners understand their insurability before operations have begun.

Finalist: Dynamic Inventory Management App for Homeowners - University of Akron

Tausif Utchhash and Connor Donahue's proposed app would offer real-time assessments of personal property values and replacement costs to help homeowners maintain accurate inventories and coverage limits, while also providing claim submission.

Winner: Telemedicine Platform for Prescriptions – Florida State University

Hannah Youngblood's proposed platform would perform a comparative analysis of a consumer's prescriptions based on their insurance coverage and suggest the most cost-effective solution.

Finalist: TikTok as a Penetration Tool for Insurance – University of Wisconsin

Chris Lane and Madison Wescott were selected for their submission, which couples the pervasiveness of the quickly growing social media app with insurance awareness for younger audiences.

Finalist: Resilience Bonds for Risk Mitigation in the Energy Sector – University of Wisconsin

Siddarth Upadhyaya and Rail Minazetdinov's proposed resilience bond would support investment in the industry and resilient infrastructure, thereby mitigating commodity price risk by removing carbon-based energy sources.

Finalist: New Framework to Assess the Risk and Underwriting for Autonomous Vehicles – University of Wisconsin

Kevin Taheri and David Leemon's proposed framework would assess the risk, underwrite the policy and set prices of autonomous vehicles alongside manufacturers.

Sample Abstract – Meeting the Needs of the Gig Economy



Title: FlexSure: Redefining Insurance for the Gig Economy

Student Name:

October 20, 2025

Introduction

The modern workforce is changing faster than insurance can keep up. Millions of workers—rideshare drivers, delivery couriers, freelance designers, influencers, and digital contractors—earn income through short-term, flexible engagements that often lack traditional employer protections. This “gig economy” now represents over one-third of the U.S. labor force, yet most participants remain uninsured or underinsured against income loss, liability, or cyber risk.

Traditional insurance products, built for static employment and long-term policy structures, don’t fit this reality. Gig workers face fluctuating incomes, varied risks, and irregular schedules that make conventional coverage both costly and impractical. My proposed solution, **FlexSure**, introduces a modular, usage-based insurance model designed specifically for gig workers. FlexSure provides adaptable, on-demand protection that evolves with each worker’s needs—ensuring financial stability, flexibility, and peace of mind in a rapidly changing labor market.

Problem Statement

Gig workers operate in a gray zone between self-employment and traditional employment. They are responsible for their own business expenses but lack access to benefits such as health insurance, disability coverage, and workers’ compensation. This creates three major challenges:

1. **Income Instability:** Gig workers rely on unpredictable earnings streams. Premiums for traditional insurance plans are often unaffordable or misaligned with their work patterns.
2. **Risk Fragmentation:** Gig professionals engage in multiple roles—driving, designing, tutoring, content creation—each carrying different liability exposures.
3. **Coverage Gaps:** Many existing products focus only on one category (e.g., commercial auto for rideshare drivers), leaving out key protections like income loss, copyright disputes, or equipment damage.

The result is an underserved, high-risk population contributing billions to the economy without reliable protection. A scalable, affordable, and technology-driven approach is needed to insure the future of flexible work.

Proposed Solution: FlexSure

FlexSure is a dynamic insurance platform that allows gig workers to build personalized coverage in real time, based on their tasks, earnings, and risk exposure. It operates as a mobile-first digital ecosystem that integrates directly with major gig platforms such as Uber, DoorDash, Upwork, and Fiverr.

The product is built around three key components:

1. Modular Coverage Structure

Workers can select coverage “modules” tailored to their specific gig types—auto, professional liability, equipment protection, cyber risk, or income replacement. For example, a rideshare driver could activate commercial auto and accident modules, while a freelance designer could select professional liability and copyright protection.

2. Usage-Based Pricing

FlexSure uses telematics and API integrations with gig platforms to track hours worked, distance driven, or contracts completed. Premiums are calculated dynamically—workers pay only for coverage during active work hours or contract periods.

3. Micro-Savings and Flex Benefits

Through partnerships with fintech firms, FlexSure allocates a small percentage of each gig payment into a “Flex Wallet.” This wallet funds insurance premiums, emergency savings, and optional retirement contributions. The model encourages financial literacy while maintaining affordability.

By merging technology, behavioral finance, and modular design, FlexSure transforms insurance from a fixed expense into a fluid, adaptive tool for income protection.

Implementation Plan

Phase 1: Pilot and Validation (Year 1–2)

Partner with a rideshare and a freelance platform to pilot usage-based coverage for 10,000 workers. Collect data on average risk exposure, claim frequency, and customer satisfaction. Integrate feedback to refine app usability and pricing algorithms.

Phase 2: Expansion and Platform Integration (Year 3–4)

Expand to delivery and creator platforms (e.g., DoorDash, YouTube creators, Etsy sellers). Introduce a shared dashboard for multi-gig workers that consolidates coverage activity across all platforms.

Phase 3: National Rollout and Financial Ecosystem (Year 5+)

Scale through insurer alliances and gig platform partnerships. Launch tiered subscription plans (Basic, Pro, Enterprise) and enable small business group offerings for gig co-ops and freelancer networks. Over time, FlexSure could evolve into a standard benefits layer embedded in gig platforms nationwide.

Feasibility and Benefits

The technologies required—API integrations, telematics, mobile payments, and digital identity verification—are already mature. Carriers are seeking growth in untapped markets, and regulators are increasingly open to flexible coverage models.

Key Benefits:

- For Carriers: Access to a growing market segment with low fixed costs and strong data transparency.
- For Workers: Affordable, customizable protection that scales with income and risk.
- For Regulators: Standardized framework for protecting independent workers and ensuring fair treatment.
- For Platforms: Improved worker loyalty and reduced reputational risk through enhanced benefits offerings.

FlexSure can be implemented through a consortium approach—insurers providing underwriting capacity, gig platforms supplying data and customer access, and fintech partners managing microtransactions. This structure balances risk, compliance, and innovation.

Potential Challenges

- Data Privacy and Security: Managed through encrypted API exchanges and worker consent protocols.
- Adoption Barriers: Addressed through auto-enrollment incentives and educational content embedded within partner platforms.
- Regulatory Alignment: Mitigated by collaborating with state insurance departments to create a shared regulatory sandbox for flexible worker coverage.

By confronting these challenges proactively, FlexSure can gain trust among workers, carriers, and regulators alike.

Conclusion

The insurance industry's future depends on its ability to adapt to how people actually work. FlexSure represents that adaptation—an inclusive, data-driven approach to protecting a generation of independent workers who power the modern economy.

By aligning protection with participation, FlexSure turns insurance into an enabler rather than an afterthought. It gives gig workers confidence that every mile driven, delivery made, or design created contributes not only to income—but to long-term security.

As gig work continues to redefine employment, insurers must redefine coverage. **FlexSure is more than a product—it's a platform for empowerment, trust, and financial resilience.**

Title: Closing the Flood Gap: A Public-Private Framework for Expanding Flood Coverage

Student Name:

October 20, 2025

Introduction

Flooding is the most common and costly natural disaster in the United States, yet fewer than one in six households in high-risk areas carry flood insurance. Coverage gaps remain especially severe in low-income and historically underserved communities, where affordability, awareness, and accessibility all pose barriers. As extreme weather events grow more frequent due to climate change, this lack of coverage places millions of families and small businesses at risk.

To address this challenge, I propose the **FloodLink Framework**—a public-private partnership model designed to expand flood insurance adoption through data-driven risk mapping, community engagement, and modular insurance products. The framework blends government resources, private insurer innovation, and community outreach to deliver protection that is both affordable and sustainable.

Problem Statement

Traditional flood insurance systems suffer from structural and behavioral limitations. The **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**, while essential, remains financially strained and limited in scope. Premium rates often fail to reflect true localized risk, and private carriers have been hesitant to enter the market due to uncertain profitability and high capital requirements.

For policyholders, the barriers are just as steep. Many property owners outside FEMA-designated flood zones believe they don't need insurance, while those within zones often view it as too expensive or confusing. The result is a systemic protection gap—one that disproportionately impacts lower-income populations and small businesses least able to recover after disaster strikes.

Without new approaches that share data, reduce administrative barriers, and incentivize private participation, millions of Americans will remain uninsured against one of the most predictable risks in modern life.

Proposed Solution: The FloodLink Framework

The **FloodLink Framework** is built on three integrated pillars:

1. Data Integration and Risk Transparency

A centralized platform would merge flood-risk data from FEMA, NOAA, state agencies, and private satellite analytics into an accessible mapping tool. This "Risk Portal" would allow insurers, municipalities, and consumers to visualize flood exposure at a hyper-local level. By improving public understanding of risk, FloodLink removes one of the major psychological barriers to purchase—uncertainty.

2. Public-Private Microinsurance Model

FloodLink introduces a tiered microinsurance product co-funded by insurers and government reinsurance backstops. This structure lowers the entry cost for consumers while protecting insurers from catastrophic loss. The first tier offers essential coverage for property damage and displacement at an affordable rate, while higher tiers provide expanded protection for rebuilding and business interruption.

3. Community Partnerships and Incentives

FloodLink channels outreach through local governments, universities, and credit unions to reach at-risk populations. Policyholders who invest in flood-resilient improvements—such as elevating utilities or installing water barriers—receive premium discounts funded jointly by participating insurers and federal mitigation grants. This approach not only boosts coverage rates but also encourages risk reduction at the community level.

Implementation Plan

Phase 1: Pilot Program (Year 1–2)

Launch FloodLink in three flood-prone regions—one coastal, one riverine, and one urban. Partner with regional insurers, NFIP administrators, and local nonprofits to test the data portal and offer subsidized pilot policies. Collect data on adoption rates, loss ratios, and community engagement.

Phase 2: Expansion and Incentive Alignment (Year 3–4)

Refine the pricing model and scale through private-sector involvement. Introduce employer-sponsored flood coverage programs similar to group life insurance, allowing businesses to offer protection to employees in at-risk areas. Expand community incentive grants to include green infrastructure improvements.

Phase 3: National Integration (Year 5+)

Integrate FloodLink data and microinsurance products with FEMA's modernization initiatives, allowing seamless policy management through a single digital portal. Establish performance metrics tied to national resilience goals, including percentage increase in coverage penetration and reduction in uninsured losses.

Feasibility and Benefits

The FloodLink Framework is feasible because it builds upon infrastructure and funding mechanisms already in place. Data sharing agreements, catastrophe bonds, and federal reinsurance programs provide a strong foundation for implementation.

Benefits for Key Stakeholders:

- **Carriers:** Access to detailed risk data improves underwriting precision and expands the customer base through affordable entry products.
- **Regulators:** Clearer visibility into market participation and risk distribution enables smarter resilience planning.
- **Consumers:** Affordable, understandable policies that protect against a known and growing threat.
- **Communities:** Incentives for flood mitigation strengthen resilience and lower long-term disaster recovery costs.

By bridging public oversight and private innovation, FloodLink reframes flood insurance as a shared social utility rather than a niche product.

Potential Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

- **Affordability Concerns:** Addressed through premium subsidies and reinsurance support.
- **Data Privacy:** Mitigated by anonymizing consumer data and limiting portal access to authorized users.
- **Carrier Hesitation:** Reduced through state-backed loss-sharing agreements and educational outreach.

These measures ensure the framework remains both economically viable and socially equitable.

Please direct all questions to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com

Conclusion

As climate risks intensify, closing the flood coverage gap is no longer optional—it is essential for economic and social stability. The **FloodLink Framework** provides a scalable, data-driven pathway to achieve that goal. By aligning government oversight with private-sector efficiency, it fosters trust, reduces risk, and protects vulnerable communities.

This proposal envisions a future where flood coverage is as common and expected as auto or homeowners insurance—accessible to all, supported by innovation, and built on shared responsibility. The insurance industry has an opportunity not only to manage climate risk but to lead the nation toward a more resilient tomorrow.

Title: SentinelAI: Enhancing Fairness and Transparency in Insurance Decision-Making

Student Name:

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Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become the engine of modern insurance operations—transforming how carriers price policies, assess risk, and process claims. But as algorithms gain influence, so do the risks associated with their misuse or misinterpretation. Many insurers now face a difficult question: How can we leverage AI to improve efficiency and accuracy without compromising ethics, fairness, or regulatory compliance?

The insurance industry's challenge is no longer whether to use AI—it's how to ensure it behaves responsibly. My proposed solution, **SentinelAI**, introduces a proactive monitoring framework that detects bias, audits model behavior, and explains AI-driven decisions in real time. The goal is to make AI transparent, accountable, and aligned with the principles of fairness and trust that define the insurance industry.

Problem Statement

As insurers adopt predictive analytics, machine learning, and generative models, they increasingly depend on algorithms that operate beyond full human comprehension. These “black box” models can unintentionally reproduce bias embedded in training data or produce inconsistent results across demographics.

This lack of visibility creates three urgent issues:

1. **Regulatory Uncertainty:** New frameworks, such as the EU AI Act and emerging U.S. state-level guidelines, require carriers to prove fairness, explainability, and governance.
2. **Reputational Risk:** Biased AI outcomes—such as denied claims or inflated premiums for certain groups—can damage consumer trust.
3. **Operational Blind Spots:** Without proper monitoring, insurers struggle to understand how algorithms evolve as they learn from new data.

The insurance industry needs a way to turn AI oversight into a strategic asset—not just a compliance task.

Proposed Solution: SentinelAI

SentinelAI is a cloud-based monitoring and audit platform designed to oversee all AI applications within an insurer's ecosystem. Its mission is simple: to make every AI decision explainable, traceable, and improvable.

The system operates through four main capabilities:

1. Continuous Model Auditing

SentinelAI automatically tests AI models at regular intervals to identify statistical bias, data drift, and performance degradation. The platform compares predictions across demographic segments to flag potential fairness concerns before they affect customers.

2. Real-Time Explainability Dashboard

A visual dashboard uses natural language processing (NLP) to translate complex model logic into plain English. For example, instead of showing “model output = 0.74 risk factor,” it explains, “Customer’s premium increased primarily due to property location and claim history.” This level of transparency improves communication with regulators and policyholders alike.

3. Compliance and Governance Toolkit

SentinelAI records every version of a model, dataset, and decision in an immutable log. This audit trail ensures full accountability and regulatory readiness for any future inquiries.

4. Collaborative Learning Environment

Rather than replacing actuaries or underwriters, SentinelAI empowers them. It provides AI performance insights, enabling human experts to fine-tune models and eliminate bias collaboratively. This human-AI partnership strengthens both trust and efficiency.

Implementation Plan

Phase 1: Pilot and Calibration (Year 1)

Partner with a mid-sized carrier to test SentinelAI on one function—claims automation. Collect data on model behavior and validate the accuracy of bias detection. Develop dashboards tailored for compliance teams and executives.

Phase 2: Expansion and Integration (Years 2–3)

Extend SentinelAI across underwriting, pricing, and customer service operations. Integrate with existing data systems via secure APIs. Introduce alerts for anomaly detection and quarterly “AI Health Reports” summarizing model integrity.

Phase 3: Industry Collaboration (Years 4–5)

Establish partnerships with reinsurers and regulatory bodies to develop standardized metrics for AI transparency. Create benchmarking reports showing industry-wide trends in fairness and performance. Position SentinelAI as the trusted monitoring standard across the insurance ecosystem.

Feasibility and Benefits

The core technologies—machine learning fairness metrics, audit logging, and large language model summarization—are already widely available. The innovation lies in adapting them to the insurance industry’s unique regulatory and ethical needs.

Benefits include:

- **For Insurers:** Reduced compliance costs, better understanding of AI performance, and early detection of bias before public exposure.
- **For Regulators:** Consistent, auditable data that simplifies oversight.
- **For Policyholders:** Assurance that AI decisions are explainable, equitable, and appealable.
- **For Employees:** Tools to collaborate with AI systems confidently rather than fear being replaced by them.

By positioning transparency as a core value, SentinelAI not only improves compliance but also strengthens brand reputation and customer loyalty.

Please direct all questions to Barbara.Edwards@ambest.com

Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

- **Data Privacy Concerns:** SentinelAI employs encrypted data streams and anonymization layers to ensure compliance with HIPAA and GDPR standards.
- **Model Complexity:** Simplified explainability modules break down results without revealing proprietary algorithms.
- **Cultural Resistance:** Training programs help employees understand how AI oversight enhances, rather than limits, innovation.

Through these safeguards, SentinelAI bridges the gap between cutting-edge technology and responsible governance.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence is transforming insurance—but without transparency, transformation can erode trust. SentinelAI turns oversight into empowerment. It ensures that insurers don't just use AI—they **understand it, control it, and improve it.**

By combining continuous auditing, real-time explainability, and collaborative human-AI governance, SentinelAI sets a new standard for responsible innovation. It proves that ethics and efficiency are not opposing forces—they are partners in building a stronger, fairer insurance industry.

In the next decade, carriers that prioritize transparency will define the market. With SentinelAI, insurers can lead the way—delivering smarter decisions, safer outcomes, and a more trustworthy future for everyone.