AIM-HI RFP Frequently Asked Questions

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Eligibility

Q: Can non-health systems apply?
A: Yes, but in most circumstances, the project implementation should take place within a care delivery system.

Q: Would you consider a submission where the implementation of the AI tool occurred outside of a health system setting?
A: Depending on the proposed use case, we are open to considering this type of application, however we would expect the use case to be very compelling to be considered competitive. If applicants have a specific use case that they would like to run by the Coordinating Center, please contact AIM-HI@kp.org.

Q: The eligibility criteria states that “Health Care Systems in the United States are eligible to apply.” What is the definition of a health care system? Is an AI startup company eligible?
A: Regarding eligibility, health care systems and organizations are eligible to apply. To be competitive, we would strongly encourage start-ups or health tech companies to partner with a health care system. The intent of the RFP is to support research that evaluates the implementation of existing Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) algorithms that enhance diagnostic decision-making in real-world settings.

Q: Can a tech platform vendor partner with a health care system and propose jointly?
A: Yes.

Q: Can KP institutions apply? Can non-KP researchers collaborate with a unit within KP for the implementation aspect if the proposal?
A: No. Unfortunately, our agreement with Moore precludes KP investigators or institutions from participating in this RFP in any meaningful scientific role, so that arrangement (i.e., using KP patient data, KP co-investigators) presents a conflict of interest. Any part of KP or any KP investigator acting in any substantial scientific portion of the proposal will be not allowed due to conflicts of interest.

Please direct questions not listed here to AIM-HI@kp.org
**Q:** Can an individual be included in multiple proposal applications?

**A:** Yes, there is no problem with being included in multiple applications, however it is unlikely that more than one proposal from a single organization will be selected for funding.

**Q:** The website indicates that the RFP goal may be limited to using AI/ML for "diagnostic-decision making." Can you please clarify what is eligible for the program?

**A:** While there are many potential applications of AI/ML in healthcare, the specific area of focus for this program is in **diagnostic-decision-making**.

**Q:** Noting the heavy emphasis on diagnostics, what about studying the use of AI on improving clinical decision making to improve outcome metrics?

**A:** Clinical decision making is predicated on diagnostic excellence. This would be of interest and would fall under the goals of the program.

**Q:** The RFP mentions the Moore Foundation’s areas of focus include cancer, acute vascular events, and acute infection, but will also entertain other areas. Can you comment on interest around other health use cases?

**A:** Other health use cases will be reviewed. Compelling and impactful LOIs that describe the use case and what the impact of the tool would be for that area of health are welcome.

**Q:** How will collaborations between academic centers or larger health care institutions and a smaller community health center be viewed?

**A:** If the proposed application is compelling, a collaboration as described would be viewed as significantly more competitive than if an academic center or larger health care institution went in alone.

**Q:** I have an idea for developing a system for model monitoring of an existing score. Would post implementation ongoing evaluation for things like performance and drift be of interest (without a randomized or even comparative component)?

**A:** The model monitoring does **not** fit within AIM-HI’s objectives.

**Q:** Does the RFP support development and/or refinement of the user interface that will be used to deliver the information from the underlying algorithm? Or is the interface expected to be complete along with the AI/ML algorithm?

**A:** Funding should be focused primarily on the evaluation of the algorithm in use and focused on patient outcomes. We recognize there are potential gaps with respect to a specific element of the full AI/ML to clinical bedside care pipeline, and funding can be applied to specific elements of that pipeline. However, if funding for user interface is a large portion of the requested budget for funding, it would likely be viewed as not achieving the goal of focusing on evaluation and impact on outcomes.
Q: Can we meet with someone on the AIM-HI team to discuss whether our idea is of interest prior to submitting the LOI?
A: If we have not addressed your question in the Virtual Information Session(s) or FAQs on our website, feel free to send us a high-level description (1-2 sentences) of what your team is planning. We can respond in an email. Unless a question cannot be addressed via email, we are not planning to meet with project teams during the LOI phase.

Letter of Interest

Q: Are there any requirements for the LOI that we should be aware of?
A: Details and requirements for the LOI can be found listed in the RFP Full Text document in the file library on our website, here: https://divisionofresearch.kaiserpermanente.org/projects/aim-hi/Pages/request-for-proposals.aspx

Q: Who does the LOI need to come from?
A: The LOI should be submitted by (or on behalf of) the PI, where the PI describes the application in a health system.

Q: Who does the Letter of Support need to come from?
A: The letter of support should come from a key partner within the PI’s institution indicating that the proposal is feasible and that there is interest from an organizational and operational perspective.

Q: How many Letters of Support should we submit?
A: At the LOI stage, multiple letters from the same institutions are not necessary. If there are multiple institutions, then there should be one letter of support from each institution.

Q: Whose biosketches should be submitted? How many biosketches should we submit?
A: Only the PI, and potentially a limited number of key Co-PI/Co-I biosketches should be submitted at the LOI stage.

Q: When can teams expect to be notified if they are invited to submit a full proposal?
A: We do not have a specific date identified, but we are aiming for some time between July 21-30. We anticipate having all the LOI reviews completed mid-July and will communicate decisions to all applicants by the end of the month.
Budget & Funding

Q: What is the contract type of this award?
A: This will be a pre-paid grant, with a lump sum disbursement at the time of award.

Q: Is the $750,000 over 3 years direct costs or total costs?
A: $750,000 is the total cost per project, including indirects. We are planning to have a two-year project period with a permissible 1-year no-cost extension.

Q: What is the indirect rate allowed for the budget on this project?
A: We are required to use the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation indirect rate, 12.5%.

Q: Is there a salary cap associated with this award?
A: No.

Q: Are there any disallowable expenses?
A: Yes, disallowed expenses are flowed down from the Gordon and Better Moore Foundation. Prohibited Uses:
• Recipient institution may not use grant funds for any purpose other than the Grant Purpose or for any purpose that is inconsistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”).
• Recipient institution may not use grant funds to influence the outcome of any specific election for candidate for public office or to carry out any voter registration drive.
• Recipient institution may not use grant funds for lobbying as defined in Section 4945(d) and (e) of the Code or any other applicable local, state or foreign lobbying laws. In carrying out the project funded by this Grant, recipient institution may, however, attempt to influence government action in ways that fall outside of that definition of lobbying. It is recipient institution’s obligation, independent of Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, to determine if it has any registration or reporting requirements under any applicable gift, ethics, or other laws.

Q: What is the remittance schedule for an award?
A: Awards will be pre-paid annually, unexpended funds at the close of the project will be returned. We are expecting that a 1-year no cost extension (with justification) will be permitted after the 2-year project period.

Q: From outside US, we have plenty of US partners who want to do research on our AI algorithms. Can you tell us if the funding would only go to the clinical partner?
A: Yes, the funds are solely for US health systems and the PI of the proposed work needs to be from a US-based health care system. This type of collaboration would only be allowable if both those conditions are met.
Other

**Q: How many Virtual Information Sessions will there be?**

**A:** There will be one Virtual Information Session during the LOI application period and one during the full application period. The latter will only be for applicants who have been invited to submit full applications.

**Q: Are the Virtual Information Sessions recorded? Can I access the recording/slide deck?**

**A:** Yes, the sessions will be recorded. The recording link can be found on our website (https://divisionofresearch.kaiserpermanente.org/projects/aim-hi/Pages/request-for-proposals.aspx). You may also request access to the recording and/or slide deck by emailing AIM-HI@kp.org.

**Q: We are well suited to be a collaborator on a project but have little research experience or resourcing. Will there be opportunities to partner with external researchers to design evaluation studies and other relevant details?**

**A:** Overall, a more fully fleshed out LOI/proposal will be more competitive. If a proposal is significant, innovative, and impactful, yet states eagerness to find a partner and participate in this together, we may potentially be able to provide a bit of assistance. We suggest seeking out partners in the field that you have worked with before or whose work you are familiar with, so that you can determine collaborators in the LOI stage.