

## Targeted Request for Applications:

### Innovations to promote Health Equity and Accessibility With an Emphasis on Rural and Pediatric Health (ODAT Health Equity RFA)

Issued by the Office of Discovery and Translation (ODAT),  
In collaboration with the Pediatric Device Innovation Consortium (PDIC)

#### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Despite significant medical advances and innovations to improve human health, health outcomes are not equal across all populations. New technology and healthcare innovations have the potential to mitigate health disparities and improve quality of life for individuals who have historically experienced greater obstacles to health.

**The purpose of this funding program is to support the development of innovations that advance health equity, improve access to care, and increase health care quality or quality of life for adult and pediatric populations impacted by health disparities.** The ultimate goal of this funding program is to positively impact patient health in Minnesota and the nation.

In 2021, ODAT's Translational Grant Program is targeted to support the development of innovations that aim to advance health equity and accessibility. Innovations supported through this RFA will have the potential to translate beyond the UMN to impact the intended population(s).

Target areas of interest include innovations that address health disparities due to: age (e.g. pediatrics, geriatrics); geography (e.g. rural, urban); race; gender; sexual identity or orientation; disability or socioeconomic status.

**Projects that address unmet needs in pediatric-health, and projects that address rural health disparities, are particularly encouraged to apply.**

#### INVESTIGATOR ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility includes Principal Investigators with an appointment at the University of Minnesota (system-wide, all campuses) including faculty members at affiliated sites: VA, Hennepin Healthcare, HealthPartners, and the Children's Hospitals of Minnesota. For questions about eligibility, please contact Jodi Fenlon Rebuffoni [fenl0003@umn.edu](mailto:fenl0003@umn.edu).

#### PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Project must aim to develop a novel solution that advances health equity, improves access to care, and/or increases health care quality or quality of life for adult and/or pediatric populations impacted by health disparities. Proposed innovations (e.g. medical devices, diagnostics, therapeutics, digital health tools,

and service-models) should be scalable, with the potential to translate beyond the UMN to impact the intended population(s).

Examples of eligible project types include, but are not limited to, projects developing:

1. Mobile and wearable technology
2. Telehealth solutions
3. Artificial intelligence (AI) technology
4. Remote monitoring devices
5. Adaptive and assistive technology
6. Service models
7. Digital health tools
8. Pharmaceuticals or biologics

### INELIGIBLE SUBMISSIONS

This program is not intended to support:

- The study of new uses for commercially available products or services, unless these new uses require novel innovation development at UMN
- Projects where the problem related to a health disparity is being studied, but no solution (product or service-model) is being developed at UMN. Please see the “Project Eligibility” section below for more details
- Projects where the translational potential of the solution being developed is not scalable to broader use beyond the UMN

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Proposals must be submitted online through the REDCap database.

You may open the survey in your web browser by clicking the link below:

[2021 ODAT Health Equity Proposal Submission Form](#)

If the link above does not work, you may copy the link below into your web browser:

<https://redcap.ahc.umn.edu/surveys/?s=3CJRJR3YMR>

The online proposal submission form will request information related to the unmet healthcare need and disparity being addressed, a description of the innovation (product/service/approach), and details related to the work plan, project team, estimated budget and timeline.

An applicant may apply for only one grant per cycle on which they would be the PI or co-PI. There is no limitation to the number of grants on which an applicant would participate as a co-investigator or collaborator

*Note: You may save and return to complete your submissions at any time using the code provided when the “Save and Return Later” option is selected. To return to the form re-click the link identified above.*

Proposals will undergo assessment of the translational potential of the project, and may include review by external experts operating under a confidentiality agreement. Applicants may be asked to respond to questions raised during proposal review. Applicants selected for funding may be asked to make appropriate revisions to their work plan reflecting feedback from reviewers.

Award amounts are determined on a project-by-project basis depending on what is needed to reach the next critical development milestone. Typical awards will not exceed \$50,000 total direct costs with a funding period of one year. Please request only the amount that is needed to advance development.

Project review will strongly consider if funds are being requested for only the work critical to advance the innovation to the next development milestone. Projects successfully meeting project milestones, and that demonstrate continued advancement towards patient access, may be eligible to apply for additional ODAT funding. No indirect costs are allowed.

#### SUBMISSION, REVIEW, AND AWARD DATES

Proposal due date	April 28, 2021
Review period	May-June 2021
Award Notification	By July 1, 2021
Anticipated award start date	August 1, 2021

#### EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. *Health Disparity and Impact:* What is the health disparity being addressed in the project? How will the proposed innovation potentially improve the experience and/or health of patients or improve health outcomes?
2. *Translational Focus:* Has the project advanced to where the focus is predominantly on developing a solution to the identified need rather than further research on the problem?
3. *Feasibility:* Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analysis well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the goals of the project? Are the proposed work plan, budget and timeline realistic?
4. *Expertise:* Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Does the PI or investigative team have the necessary expertise to conduct the proposed work?
5. *Scientific quality:* Does the project have its origins in innovative, high-quality research conducted by the PI(s)?

#### FUNDING PERIOD COLLABORATION WITH ODAT

Grantees will be asked to provide periodic updates to ODAT following initiation of the award. As needed, the ODAT Program Management Team may work in collaboration with the PI to engage the expertise of additional UMN faculty or staff or external experts to support successful translation of the project.

Advancement of the project toward the development of a new product or service-model will be tracked following the conclusion of funding.

#### PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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