Request for Proposals

2022 Hillman Innovations in Care (HIC)
$600,000 | 3 years

Letters of Intent due on Tuesday, March 29, 2022
The Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation’s mission is to improve the lives of all patients, families, and communities through nursing-driven innovation. We focus our grantmaking on elevating the health and healthcare of marginalized populations because we believe that by improving care to populations who experience inequity, discrimination, oppression, and indifference, we improve care for all. To this end, we invest in the development of new and better ways of delivering care, and the cultivation of a vibrant ecosystem of nurse innovators, grantees, and partners dedicated to building a healthier, more equitable future.

The Hillman Innovations in Care (HIC) program provides grants to advance leading edge, nursing-driven models of care that will improve the health and healthcare of marginalized populations. This includes Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), the economically disadvantaged, LGBTQ+ people, people experiencing homelessness, low-income rural populations, refugee and immigrant populations, and others.

The HIC program seeks proposals for bold, nursing-driven models of care that:
- Improve health outcomes for marginalized populations
- Narrow gaps in health equity
- Challenge conventional strategies for delivering and improving care to marginalized populations
- Present strong preliminary evidence
- Show potential for broad replicability

Additional priority consideration will be given to proposals that include one or more of the following:
- Build trust and credibility in programs or systems of care
- Strong partnerships with community organizations
- Engagement of patients, caregivers, and communities in the design of the intervention
- Inter-sectoral, inter-agency, and multidisciplinary collaboration including investigators from different disciplines
- Investigators from diverse backgrounds or with diverse life experiences (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, class origin/first generation college, LGBTQ+, disability, national origin)
- Methodologies and metrics for advancing health equity
- Measurable goals and outcomes

The Foundation will not consider:
- White papers, literature reviews, or support for publishing
- Basic science or research
- Capital projects or improvements
- Training programs
- Development of stand-alone technology including medical devices and mobile apps not integral to the overall design of the program
- Projects outside the United States and its territories

To see our current list of grantees, please visit our [website](#).

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**Grant Award**

The program will award a $600,000 grant each to up to two (2) organizations. Project duration is 3 years, with an expected start date of January 1, 2023. Grant payments will be made annually, with the first payment made by December 31, 2022.

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**Application Schedule**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Portal Opens</td>
<td>Tuesday, February 8, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Informational Webinar (optional)</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, February 15, 2022 (1:00 pm EST)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letters of Intent Due</td>
<td>Tuesday, March 29, 2022 (11:59 pm EST)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalists Invited to Submit Full Proposals</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 26, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Proposals Due</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 1, 2022 (11:59 pm EST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Announcement</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 25, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Schedule is subject to change. Adjustments to dates will be announced to applicants via email and posted to the Foundation’s [website](#).*
Who Should Apply?

We believe that transformative ideas are as likely to come from community health clinics as they are from major academic research centers.

We welcome applications from institutions and care settings from across the spectrum of care, and from practitioners representing a diverse range of backgrounds.

Who is eligible?

- U.S. 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that are not classified as private foundations (proof of qualifying non-profit status, such as a tax-exempt determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service, is required)
- International organizations that are the equivalent of U.S. 501(c)(3) organizations that are submitting a project that focuses within the United States
- Government entities
- Faith-based organizations that welcome and serve all members of the community regardless of religious belief

Who is not eligible?

- Individuals
- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status

Application Instructions

Letters of Intent (LOIs) must be submitted through the Foundation’s online grant portal. The application consists of three parts:

Project Profile

- Organization/institution contact information
- Principal Investigator(s) contact information
- Brief description of organization or institution (250 words maximum)
- Executive summary of proposed project (200 words maximum)
Letter of Intent (1,000 words maximum)

While the substance and style of narratives will vary depending on the nature of the project, LOIs should accomplish the following:

- Describe the main issue, problem, or opportunity and why it is important
- Identify the marginalized population or populations served
- Describe the proposed intervention/model of care/approach/prototype being taken and any evidence it has generated
- Explain how the proposed intervention relates to other models in the field and why it is bold and innovative
- Explain how the grant funds will be used
- Identify the Principal Investigator(s) and other key participants including collaborating organizations
- Explain why the Principal Investigator(s), organization and project collaborators are uniquely qualified to address the issue or problem
- Explain briefly the anticipated measurable outcomes and benefits of the project, including potential long-term impact

Supporting Materials

- Short biographies (½ – 1 page) of each person on the project team. Full curriculum vitae (CVs) are discouraged.
- Up to two (3) letters of support
- Up to two (3) items that provide additional evidence/information to support the application, which may include a link to a brief video (no more than two minutes), published articles or brochure, etc

Allowable Costs

Grant funds may be used for the following cost categories:

- Personnel
- Travel
- Consultants
- Direct Supplies
- Equipment
  Please note, partial or full support for equipment may be requested. Funding for infrastructure will be limited.
- Other Research Costs
Sub-grants/ Subcontracts
Indirect Costs
Please note, The Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation will provide a limited amount of funding for indirect costs, based on the nature of the applicant organization, to a maximum of 15% of direct costs (above outlined items) of the project’s administered grant value. The sum of direct and indirect costs must equal the total grant amount awarded ($600,000).

Evaluation Criteria

Health Impact: Will the project have a significant impact on the health of marginalized populations? Does the proposal clearly explain the pathway to impact, including how it will improve health and the provision of care?

Boldness and Creativity: Does the proposal present creative solutions that address significant health and healthcare problems in a new way? Does the proposed intervention have the potential to leapfrog conventional approaches?

Nursing-Driven: Is the proposed intervention rooted in nursing’s strengths and holistic approach to care? Is a nursing approach especially well-suited to address the defined health/healthcare problem?

Scalability: Can the innovation and delivery mechanisms be readily implemented in systems and/or communities to improve health or healthcare? What are the barriers to scaling up?

Evidence/Execution Plan: Are the proposed concept and approach based on sound analysis and evidence? Are feasible activities and reasonable measurable outcomes set out for the three-year timeline of the grant?

Health Equity: Will the project have a significant impact on health equity within the target population? Does the proposal clearly explain the metrics and approach to improving health equity?

Inclusion: Does the team include diverse perspectives? Are members of the target population/community meaningfully included in the design, implementation and evaluation of the project?
Leadership: Do the leaders and key team members demonstrate the commitment, skills, and leadership necessary to bring solutions to scale?

Institutional/Community Support: How does the host organization bring demonstrable support and commitment to the proposed project? How does it align with institutional priorities?

Sustainability: Does the proposal outline a realistic, specific course for developing a path to sustainability in the three-year timeframe?

Deliverables

The project leaders funded under this effort will be expected to provide the deliverables listed below:

- Provision of three (3) annual written reports to demonstrate project progress and success. The final report will capture a clear assessment of the impact of the project. This report will also identify social, cultural and other barriers to expanded implementation, and an initial plan for scaling the intervention that addresses these barriers.
- Provision of periodic updates, including conversations via teleconference and (in special circumstances) informal site visits.
- Dissemination of knowledge through publications in peer-reviewed literature and/or presentations at conferences and other convenings.
- Participation in public engagement activities

Additional Resources

Due to the volume of submissions (over 300) and our limited staff of 4 people, it is difficult to provide personal feedback for each individual applicant and project. We have compiled the following resources:

- A detailed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to answer any additional questions.
- A detailed guide with instructions on navigating the Foundation’s online grant portal, which is coming soon. Please contact us at innovationsincare@rahf.org if you experience technical issues. We encourage you to begin your application
early because Foundation staff have limited availability to respond to inquiries as application deadlines approach.

- An optional, informational webinar on this year’s Hillman Innovation Programs, taking place on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 1:00 pm EST, to explain the particulars of each program and how to assess which might offer the best match for a given project. Please register in advance for the informational webinar.

Privacy Notice

To help us in the evaluation and analysis of projects, all proposals, documents, communications, and associated materials submitted to The Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation (collectively, “Submission Materials”) will become the property of the Foundation and will be shared with other members of the Advisory Committee, Board of Directors, and other funding partners or potential funding partners. We will report publicly on the number of applications received.

The proposals, in addition to analysis by our staff and consultants, may be subject to confidential external review by independent subject-matter experts, potential co-funders, and (for educational purposes only) participants in the Hillman Scholars Program for Nursing Innovation. Please carefully consider the information included in the Submission Materials. If you have any doubts about the wisdom of disclosure of confidential or proprietary information, we recommend you consult with legal counsel and take any steps you deem necessary to protect your intellectual property. You may wish to consider whether such information is critical for evaluating the submission, and whether more general, non-confidential information may be adequate as an alternative for these purposes.

We respect confidential information we receive. Nonetheless, notwithstanding your characterization of any information as being confidential, we may publicly disclose all information contained in Submission Materials to the extent as may be required by law and as is necessary for potential co-funders and external reviewers to evaluate them and the manner and scope of potential funding, consistent with appropriate regulations and their internal guidelines and policies.