

EVMS-Sentara Healthcare Analytics and Delivery Science Institute Grant

2017 Request for Proposals

Description

The EVMS-Sentara Healthcare Analytics and Delivery Science Institute grant is made available through a partnership between EVMS and Sentara. The goal is to develop a collaborative framework for conducting focused and prioritized research in healthcare analytics and delivery, translational research, population health, clinical trials, community health disparities and other areas recommended by the Institute's Joint Governance Board. Partnerships between clinical faculty and those with population health expertise are strongly encouraged. Proposals will be reviewed by the Institute's Research Oversight Council, with final decisions made by the Joint Governance Board. Preference will be given to projects that align with the Institute's goals and include explicit plans on incorporating the use of data analytics.

Purpose

This grant program aims to support exploratory and developmental research projects to improve health quality outcomes, address healthcare disparities, affordability, efficiency and cost effectiveness of health services across the continuum of healthcare for adult wellness. The proposed research should consider the patient populations, potential health disparities, care categories, and outcomes listed below:

Priority Patient Populations

Target populations for this RFP include patients diagnosed with or at high risk of developing:

- Ischemic Vascular Disease (AMI, Stroke, Peripheral Vascular Disease)
- Pulmonary Disease (e.g. COPD, Pneumonia, etc.)
- Heart Failure
- Sepsis
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Cancer

Healthcare disparities of the populations for consideration include:

- Ethnicity
- Level of Education
- Socioeconomic status
- Area of residence

Care Categories for Evaluation

- Pre-Hospitalization (e.g. Advanced Care Planning, Wellness Care Plans, Chronic Disease Management, Screening Rates)
- In-Patient Hospitalization (e.g. Hospital-acquired infections and conditions, Clinical Process Measures)
- Post-Hospitalization (e.g. Access to Care, Transitional Care Management, Advance Care Planning, etc.)

Project Outcomes

Target project outcomes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Readmission rates (preventable and overall)
- Mortality rates
- Cost of care
- Complications of care

Funding

Maximum allowed funding per approved proposal is \$10,000.

Proposal Guidelines

- Full-time EVMS faculty, Sentara employees, or community-based physicians are invited to submit proposals. Multiple investigators from the same discipline may apply. However, participation by investigators with complementary areas of expertise from different disciplines is strongly encouraged.

- An investigator may submit only one proposal as principal investigator (PI), but may be a collaborator on other proposals.
- Projects should be for new areas of research to expand extramural funding opportunities of the investigators within their areas of expertise.
- PIs will be responsible for obtaining data requiring chart reviews or case reports.
- Preference will be given to projects that utilize existing datasets and take the findings to publication.
- PIs should explain the proposed study's data source and indicate the hypothesis and analytical plan of the study.
- If the project currently receives external funding, the PIs should explain why additional funding is needed.

Review Criteria

All proposals will be reviewed by the Data Committee to determine the feasibility of data extraction. Grant awards will be based on the following criteria:

Significance

- Project is consistent with the Institute's goals
- Project addresses an important health outcome problem(s)
- Overall project goals will advance scientific knowledge
- Successful project completion will support obtaining extramural funding for future research initiatives

Investigator(s)

- PIs, collaborators, and other researchers provide evidence of expertise in the research area
- For collaborations, the unique skills of each collaborator enhances the possibility of success

Innovation

- Project incorporates novel concepts, approaches or methodologies
- Project supports the use of health analytics to improve or change clinical decisions and reduce healthcare cost
- Refinement, improvement, or new application of approaches or methodologies are proposed

Approach

- Overall strategy, methodology, and analyses are well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific project aims
- Potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success are presented
- How the findings will enhance the ability to obtain extramural funding and support the objectives of the Institute are clearly defined

Collaboration

- Intrinsic intellectual merit, scope and potential impact of the project on the research field
- Feasibility of the project, appropriateness of the research plan and reasonableness of the budget
- Collaborative nature of the work
- Potential for securing new grants

Environment

- Scientific environment contributes to the probability of project success
- Resources available to the investigators are adequate for the project proposed
- The project will benefit from unique features of collaborative arrangements
- The project leverages existing data resources

Budget Restrictions

The maximum allowed budget per proposal submission is \$10,000. Allowable expenses may include direct research support. No more than \$5,000 (50%) of the grant amount may be used to support the PI's salary and efforts.

Application Process and Requirements

NOTE: An informational session may be held in mid-August for all confirmed proposal submitters to address any questions.

Step One: Letter of Intent

A one-page letter of intent (LOI) is required before submitting a full proposal. Identify in the LOI the investigators and their affiliations, the care categories and target population(s), data source(s), study objective (hypothesis), analytical plan, and potential project outcomes. LOIs are due by 6/26/17. Please submit the one-page LOI to EVMSResearch@evms.edu (one single PDF).

Step Two: Submission of a Full Proposal.

LOIs will be screened for relevance to the RFP. Investigators with selected LOIs will be invited to submit a full proposal. **If invited to submit a proposal, a completed, signed application (one single PDF) must be submitted to EVMSResearch@evms.edu before 5:00 pm on 9/15/17.**

Reports

An interim report will be requested 6 months after grant award and a final report at the end of one year.

Research Proposal Documents

The research proposal must be typed, single-spaced, have margins of at least 1.0 inch, and use Times New Roman 12-font. Proposal length is 12 pages (including figures/tables and references), with pages numbered. The proposal consists of the following:

- Scientific Abstract: **(Maximum 300 words)**.
- Specific Aims: **(Maximum 1 page)**.
- Significance and Innovation: Explain the importance of the problem addressed by the proposal, and the application of the proposed work to the development of new knowledge in the research area. Describe how expected results will make a clear and significant contribution to the field of scientific knowledge, technical capabilities and/or clinical practice. Describe any novel concepts or approaches used or developed by the proposed work, and any new applications/improvements in methods, instrumentation or interventions. **(Maximum 1 page)**.
- Research Approach: Describe the overall strategy, methodology and analyses used to accomplish the specific aims of the proposal, integrating any preliminary (or published) data into the discussion of the specific aims. Discuss any pitfalls and outline contingency plans and anticipated results and timeline. Outline the scientific and scholarly opportunities made possible through any collaborations proposed. Any figures/tables used must be included within the 12 page limit. **(Maximum 2 pages)**.
- Institute Goals: In a separate paragraph outline how this proposal fulfills the Institute's goals. **(Maximum 200 words)**.

- References: Provide pertinent empirical studies published within the past 5 years. **(Maximum 2 pages)**.
- Biosketch: NIH style bio-sketches must be provided for all investigators **(Maximum 5 pages each)**. A template is attached. Biosketch pages do not count toward total proposal page count.
- Budget: Detailed, itemized budget must be provided. Justification of all budget items is required. **(Maximum 1 page)**.
- Roles and Interaction of PI and Collaborators: Describe in detail the roles of each member in the project and how collaboration will enhance the scope and/or ensure completion of the project. **(Maximum 1 page)**.
- EVMS Faculty Only: Project Approval Form for EVMS Funded Research/Collaborations is required. PI and Co-Investigator signatures are required.

Important Dates

- **LOIs due by 6/26/17** (send to EVMSResearch@evms.edu)
- If applicants have questions related to the RFP, please submit to the EVMS Office of Research (EVMSResearch@evms.edu) by 6/12/17
- Accepted LOI decision announced by 7/31/17
- A webex informational session may be scheduled in mid-August for all confirmed proposal submitters to address any questions
- Full proposals due by 5:00 pm on 9/15/17 (send to EVMSResearch@evms.edu)
- Announcement of Grant Awards no later than 10/20/17

Application Documents

Application documents can be obtained from the EVMS Office of Research or at www.sentaraevms.com.

Questions

Direct questions regarding the proposal application process to the EVMS Office of Research (EVMSResearch@evms.edu or 446-8480).