

Telehealth Equity Catalyst Awards 2021 Call for Nominations

Background

Many communities across the nation lack sufficient broadband availability and/or reliable cellular service, and the cost of these technologies is a barrier to millions more. For some, a lack of digital literacy is a substantial barrier to the use of telehealth. For others, underlying deficits in trust in the healthcare system are often magnified by a sense of intrusion with these technologies. Additional barriers may exist for those with sensory limitations and for non-English speakers, as well as for those who need a family member or guardian to participate in their care. While telehealth has the capability to advance health care equity for many populations, particularly rural and underserved communities, ignoring the current barriers puts it at risk for widening disparities in access to care rather than narrowing them. Additionally, in order to promote equitable access to care, physicians need to be aware of, address, and apply efforts to mitigate these potential barriers, as well as their own cultural biases and potential personal bias for or against telehealth.

Call for Nominations

The AAMC aims to recognize and highlight the efforts of AAMC member institutions that are advancing health care equity through telehealth and health technology in new and effective ways. AAMC member institutions are encouraged to nominate programs that demonstrate a positive impact on barriers associated with telehealth and health technology. Nominated programs must fall into one of two categories:

1. **Track 1—Clinical delivery:** Programs identifying and addressing barriers associated with accessing care via telehealth and technology, particularly for underserved and vulnerable communities
2. **Track 2—Medical training:** Programs training physicians on the health care equity implications of telehealth, including approaches to mitigate inequities in delivering care via telehealth

The Telehealth Equity Catalyst “TEC” Award will reflect an innovative contribution to health care delivery or training that is a model for other institutions to follow in addressing and mitigating the barriers to care that may be associated with telehealth, particularly for underserved and vulnerable populations. Nominated programs will be eligible to receive a \$15,000 award to assist with sustaining and/or scaling their program. The AAMC expects to make up to five awards in response to this solicitation.

Nomination Eligibility

Only AAMC-member medical schools and health systems are eligible for an award. AAMC-member institutions may submit at most one nomination per track. Self-nominations are welcome.

Nomination Submission

The nomination form must be completed [online](#). Applicants are encouraged to develop and save their responses in a separate document before submitting the online application form.

Submission Deadline

Nominations must be received by **June 7, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Please submit the [online](#) nomination form and include an institutional letter of support. Incomplete nominations will not be considered or reviewed.

Selection Criteria

Nominations will be judged by a selection committee. All decisions are final. Nominations will be judged on a variety of factors, including but not limited to the following:

- Innovative clinical delivery or medical training program that addresses barriers to care associated with telehealth and technology
- Program aims to improve health care equity for underserved and/or vulnerable population(s) and clearly describes barriers being addressed
- Compelling explanation of how the AAMC TEC Award will help to advance the program's goals and impact
- Collaborations across the institution, with community involvement as appropriate
- Demonstrated outcomes or impact on advancing health care equity
- Generalizability or transferability for adoption at other institutions
- Sustainability of the program

Nomination Review

Nominations will be judged by a selection committee based on the selection criteria. Nominees will be notified of final decisions by June 14, 2021.

Award Expectations

The AAMC seeks to learn from these innovative efforts. Institutions that are selected to receive an award will be expected to share their program or training with a national audience via an AAMC conference or webinar within 12 months of receiving the award. Additionally, awardees will participate in 2-4 interviews with AAMC staff to enable a deeper understanding of the program and to consider additional opportunities to share expertise with peers in other health systems and training programs.

Nomination Checklist

- Submit online application form by June 7, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET.
- Include one institutional letter of support on institutional letterhead, and up to two supplemental materials when completing the online nomination form.

Additional Questions

Please direct all inquiries and communications to Sarah Hampton at sahampton@aamc.org.

Nomination Materials for Track 1

Clinical Delivery: Programs addressing barriers associated with accessing care via telehealth and technology, particularly for underserved and vulnerable communities

Institution Affiliation:

Primary Contact Name:

Primary Contact Title:

Primary Contact Email:

Primary Contact Phone:

Please list Co-Applicants/Contributors:

Please provide the following information:

1. Provide a program summary. (Maximum 350 words)
2. Describe the community being served and, as appropriate, the targeted healthcare needs. Please include how the population and needs were identified (e.g., Community Health Needs Assessment, surveys, focus groups), how telehealth and/or technology-supported care was felt to be a solution, and the baseline barriers to accessing care via these modalities. (Maximum 500 words)
3. Describe how your program directly promotes health care equity by reducing barriers associated with accessing care via telehealth and technology for the target population. Please include the impact and outcomes to date. (Maximum 500 words)
4. Please list up to five key collaborators that were involved with the program design and implementation, and describe their roles. Include community collaborators, health system collaborators, and other organizations that are key to success, as appropriate.
5. Describe how the TEC Award from the AAMC could further the sustainability and/or scalability of the program. Be as specific as possible about how the funds would be put to use. (Maximum 350 words)
6. Please submit a letter of support from institutional leadership (e.g. department chair, CMO, CEO) that clearly demonstrates institutional support for the program and its sustainability and/or scale. The letter should not exceed two pages and must be on institutional letterhead. Letters can be uploaded through the online submission portal.
7. **Optional:** You may provide up to two supplemental materials (e.g., patient outreach materials, program summaries, marketing materials, etc.) in your application submission. Supplemental materials can be uploaded through the online submission portal.

Nomination Materials for Track 2

Medical training: Programs training physicians on the health care equity implications of telehealth, including approaches to mitigate inequities in delivering care via telehealth

Figure 1. AAMC Telehealth Competencies: Access & Equity Domain

Entering Residency (Recent Medical School Graduate)	Entering Practice (Recent Residency Graduate) <i>All Prior Competencies +</i>	Experienced Faculty Physician (3-5 Years Post-Residency) <i>All Prior Competencies +</i>
1a. Describes one's own implicit and explicit biases and their implications when considering telehealth	1b. Describes and mitigates one's own implicit and explicit biases during telehealth encounters	1c. Role models and teaches how to recognize and mitigate biases during telehealth encounters
2a. Defines how telehealth can affect health equity and mitigate or amplify gaps in access to care	2b. Leverages technology to promote health equity and mitigate gaps in access to care	2c. Promotes and advocates the use of telehealth to promote health equity and access to care and to advocate for policy change in telehealth to reduce inequities
3a. When considering telehealth, assesses the patient's needs, preferences, access to, and potential cultural, social, physical, cognitive, and linguistic and other communication barriers to technology use	3b. When considering telehealth, accommodates the patient's needs, preferences, and potential cultural, social, physical, cognitive, and linguistic and communication barriers to technology use	3c. When considering telehealth, role models how to advocate for improved access to it and accommodates the patient's needs, preferences, and potential cultural, social, physical, cognitive, and linguistic and communication barriers to technology use

Source: AAMC. [Telehealth Competencies Across the Learning Continuum](#). AAMC New and Emerging Areas in Medicine Series. Washington, DC: AAMC; 2021.

Institution Affiliation:

Primary Contact Name:

Primary Contact Title:

Primary Contact Email:

Primary Contact Phone:

Please list Co-Applicants/Contributors:

Please provide the following information:

1. Describe the medical training (include whether it is required or an elective), including but not limited to the context or broader learning environment within which it is delivered, the intended audience(s), and the objectives of the training. Please include how the training addresses the AAMC Telehealth Access and Equity Competencies outlined in Figure 1. (Maximum 500 words)

2. Describe how the training was designed, including collaborations within the institution, the community, and existing curricula and training resources that were used in the development of the training. (Maximum 350 words)
3. Describe how you assess the training and the degree to which it meets its objectives, including how it serves the needs of learners and patients. (Maximum 350 words)
4. How would this training need to be adapted to be generalized to other groups of learners (e.g. medical school vs. residency vs. faculty training; or MD vs. NP vs. PA vs. nursing) or settings? (Maximum 350 words)
5. Describe how the TEC Award from the AAMC could benefit and advance the training program. Be as specific as possible about how the funds would be put to use. (Maximum 350 words)
8. Please submit a letter of support from institutional leadership (e.g. dean, department chair, CMO, CEO) that clearly demonstrates institutional support for the training and its benefits to learners and patients. The letter should not exceed two pages and must be on institutional letterhead. Letters can be uploaded through the online submission portal.
9. **Optional:** You may provide up to two supplemental materials (e.g. syllabus, objectives, learners assessments, etc.) in your application submission. Supplemental materials can be uploaded through the online submission portal.