AAMC Telehealth Equity Catalyst (TEC) Pilot Grants
2022 Call for Applications

Submission Deadline: Friday, May 6, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. ET

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 health care 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 those in rural and under-resourced 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 Applications
The AAMC aims to support the implementation of innovative efforts of AAMC-member institutions to advance health care equity through telehealth and health technology in new and effective ways. Pilot proposals must show how they will tackle barriers to care via telehealth and its potential impact on health and health care equity. Applications for a Pilot Grant must fall into one of two categories:

1. **Track 1—Clinical delivery**: Proposal for a pilot program that identifies and addresses barriers associated with accessing care via telehealth and technology.

2. **Track 2—Medical education**: Proposal for a pilot program or project in undergraduate medical education, graduate medical education or continuing medical education and professional development that focuses on access and equity in telehealth. Pilot may include proposed curricula, educational activities, assessment tools, and/or related resources, established within the context of AAMC Telehealth Competencies.

The Telehealth Equity Catalyst (TEC) Pilot Grantees will implement programs that make an innovative contribution to health care delivery or training, and can serve as models for other institutions to follow in addressing and mitigating the barriers to care via telehealth, particularly for communities that are under-resourced with limited access to health care services.

Applicants will be eligible to receive a $15,000 grant to assist with the implementation and evaluation of the proposed pilot.

Application Eligibility
Only AAMC-member medical schools and health systems are eligible for a grant. AAMC-member institutions may submit no more than one application per track.

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Application Submission
 Applicants must complete the online application and upload required documents as outlined in the application. Incomplete applications will not be considered or reviewed. Applicants are encouraged to develop and save their application responses in a separate document before preparing the online form.

Application Checklist (Submit no later than May 6, 2022, 11:59 p.m. ET)
- Complete online application form.
- Upload institutional letter of support (see application instructions).
- Upload brief bios for collaborators (see application instructions).
- Upload a 12-month project timeline (June 2022-May 2023) with descriptions of key milestones to help reviewers understand your project implementation.
- Optional: upload up to two additional materials (see application instructions)

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

- Detailed pilot training or clinical delivery project that aims to clearly address inequities in access, quality, or outcomes of care for telehealth services.
- Describes how the pilot training or clinical delivery program is intended to mitigate inequities in delivering care via telehealth by addressing the needs of various patient populations (e.g., persons with challenges in communication and social interactions, mobility/cognitive/vision/hearing/independent living/self-care disabilities, linguistic/religious minority groups, racial and ethnic minority groups).
- Illustrates how the pilot program will collaborate across the health system and community.
- Outlines specific objectives, key milestones, and methods to measure the impact of the pilot program.
- Detailed breakdown of anticipated use of grant funds to achieve program goals.
- Potential plan for sustainability and/or expansion after the pilot phase.
- Rationale for how the pilot or aspects of the pilot may be generalizable or transferable for adoption in other health systems or training programs.

Additional Criteria for Track 1—Clinical Delivery:
- Requires collaboration with communities and/or patients to identify barriers for specific patient populations, establish trust, and improve health outcomes for patients, especially those in medically underserved communities.
- Aims to address health care inequities (i.e., measurable, systemic, avoidable, and unjust differences in health care access, utilization, quality, and outcomes between groups, stemming from differences in levels of social advantage and disadvantage) for patients and communities.

Additional Criteria for Track 2—Medical Training:
- Integrates the AAMC Telehealth Competencies (referenced in the medical training application) with a clear focus on the competencies in Domain II, Access and Equity in Telehealth.
Aims to improve health care equity by training physicians at one or more points across the continuum (UME, GME, CPD) on health care access and equity implications of providing and receiving care via telehealth and technology.

**Application Review**
Applications will be judged by a selection committee based on the selection criteria. The AAMC expects to notify applicants of final decisions by May 26, 2022.

**Post-Grant Requirements**
Since the AAMC aims to foster a community that discusses and shares evolving best practices in promoting telehealth access and equity within academic medicine, grantees will be required to submit brief quarterly reports to document progress toward milestones, challenges encountered, and lessons learned.

Over the course of the year, grantees also will participate in interviews with AAMC staff to enable a deeper understanding of the program and its implementation, and to consider additional opportunities to share lessons learned with peers in other health systems and training programs. AAMC will work with the grantee institutions to share generalizable approaches, strategies, and lessons learned (e.g., collaborate on resource development, participate/present in a conference, workshop, and/or webinar) to improve access and equity in health care through clinical delivery and medical training.

**Grant Payments**
Funding will be distributed in two equal payments. The first payment is expected to occur in June 2022, following the selection of grantees and the execution of grant agreements. The second payment is expected to occur in December 2022, contingent upon progress toward meeting program milestones.

**Questions?**
Please direct all inquiries and communications to Sarah Hampton at sahampton@aamc.org.
Application Materials for Track 1—Clinical Delivery

Clinical Delivery: Proposal for a pilot program that identifies and addresses barriers associated with accessing care via telehealth and technology.

Institution Affiliation:
Primary Contact Name:
Primary Contact Title:
Primary Contact Email:
Primary Contact Phone:
Names and organizational affiliations of (up to 5) Co-Applicants/Contributors:

Please provide the following information:

1. Provide a concise description of the proposed program, including the target population, the planned intervention, aims or goals of intervention, and plans for assessing its impact. The description should make clear how this work will address equitable access, quality, and/or outcomes of care for patients who have barriers to receiving care via telehealth. (Maximum 350 words)

2. Describe in greater detail the community that will benefit from this proposed program and, as appropriate, the targeted health care 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 the pilot program will meaningfully engage with communities and patients to establish trust and gain patient adoption and use of the pilot program’s telehealth and/or technology services. (Maximum 350 words)

4. You are required to upload a 12-month timeline (June 2022-May 2023) with descriptions of key milestones. Please describe the methods and measures you propose to use to understand and evaluate the impact and success of the pilot program, and detail when specific evaluation efforts will occur within the 12-month project timeline. (Maximum 500 words)

5. List up to five key collaborators who will participate in the planning, implementation, and/or evaluation of the project. As appropriate, include community collaborators, health system collaborators, and other organizations that are important for success. Describe the role each will play in the project and the plan or process for continued engagement throughout the program’s implementation. Upload a brief bio (one page) for each collaborator. (Maximum 350 words)

6. Describe the project’s potential for sustainability and/or expansion after the pilot phase. Be as detailed as possible. (Maximum 350 words)

7. Provide details on how this pilot project will be funded, including how you will use the TEC Pilot Grant funding in support of this effort. Describe any other funding sources that have been secured and/or in-kind support that will be contributed to the project. (Maximum 350 words)

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8. Upload a letter of support from institutional leadership (e.g., department chair, CMO, CEO) that demonstrates support for the pilot program. The letter should not exceed two pages and must be on institutional letterhead.

9. Upload a 12-month project timeline (June 2022-May 2023) with descriptions of anticipated key milestones to help reviewers understand your project implementation. Be as detailed and specific as possible.

10. **Optional:** You may provide up to two supplemental materials (e.g., draft patient outreach materials, baseline data, survey summary data, etc.), no more than five pages per document, in your application submission. Supplemental materials can be uploaded through the online submission portal.
Application Materials for Track 2—Medical Training

Medical training: Programs training physicians on the health care equity implications of telehealth.

Institution Affiliation:
Primary Contact Name:
Primary Contact Title:
Primary Contact Email:
Primary Contact Phone:
Names and organizational affiliations of (up to 5) Co-Applicants/Contributors:

Please provide the following information:

1. Provide a concise description of the proposed program, including but not limited to its objectives, the context or broader learning environment within which it will be delivered, the intended audience(s), and the approaches under consideration for learners to practice and demonstrate competency. Clarify if it is an elective or required training. Clearly describe how telehealth or digital equity will be targeted in the pilot, either in isolation or in the context of other telehealth competency development. (Maximum 500 words)

2. Describe the design process for the pilot training program, including how it will map to the AAMC Telehealth Competencies. Describe existing curricula and training resources that will be relevant in the development of the pilot training. (Maximum 350 words)

3. You are required to upload a 12-month timeline (June 2022-May 2023) with descriptions of key milestones. Describe how you will assess the training and evaluate whether it meets the objectives, including how you will know whether the pilot training is serving the needs of learners as well as patients. Include details on when specific evaluation efforts will occur within the 12-month project timeline. (Maximum 500 words)

4. List up to five key collaborators who will participate in the planning, implementation, and/or evaluation of the training. As appropriate, include community collaborators, health system collaborators, and other organizations that are important for success. Describe the role each will play in the project and the plan or process for continued engagement throughout the program’s implementation. Upload a brief bio (one page) for each collaborator. (Maximum 350 words)

5. Describe the training’s potential for sustainability and/or expansion after the pilot phase. Be as detailed as possible. (Maximum 350 words)

6. Describe elements of this program that are specifically suited to your clinical and educational setting, as well as elements that you anticipate could be adapted to be generalized to other groups of learners or settings (e.g., medical school vs. residency vs. faculty training; MD vs. NP vs. PA vs. nursing). (Maximum 350 words)

7. Provide details on how this pilot project will be funded, including how you will use the TEC Pilot Grant funding in support of this effort. Describe any other funding sources that have been secured and/or or in-kind support that will be contributed to the project. (Maximum 350 words)

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8. Upload a letter of support from institutional leadership (e.g., dean, residency director, DIO, department chair, telehealth director) that demonstrates support for the pilot training and its benefits to learners and patients. The letter should not exceed two pages and must be on institutional letterhead.

9. Upload a 12-month project timeline (June 2022-May 2023) with descriptions of anticipated key milestones to help reviewers understand your project implementation. Be as detailed and specific as possible.

10. **Optional:** You may provide up to two supplemental materials (e.g., proposed syllabus, proposed objectives, proposed learners’ assessments, etc.), no more than five pages per document, in your application submission.