**AAMC Telehealth Equity Catalyst (TEC) Awards**

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, persons with challenges in communication and social interactions, 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 creates a 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 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, while tackling barriers to care via telehealth that impact health and health care equity. Applications for a TEC Award 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.

2. **Track 2—Medical training:** Educational programs in undergraduate medical education, graduate medical education or continuing medical education and professional development that focus on access and equity in telehealth. These may include curricula, educational activities, assessment tools, and/or related resources, established within the context of AAMC Telehealth Competencies.

The Telehealth Equity Catalyst (TEC) Award will reflect an innovative contribution to health care delivery or medical training that can be a model for other institutions to address and mitigate the barriers to care associated with telehealth, particularly for communities that are under-resourced with limited access to health care services. Applicants will be eligible to receive a $15,000 award to assist with sustaining and/or scaling their program. The AAMC expects to make six awards in response to this solicitation.

**Application Eligibility**

Only AAMC-member medical schools and health systems are eligible for an award. AAMC-member institutions may submit no more than one application per track.
Application Submission
Applicants must complete the online application and upload an institutional letter of support 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).
- 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:

- Identifies and addresses barriers to care associated with telehealth and technology.
- Describes how the 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 program collaborates across the health system.
- Demonstrates outcomes and impact on improving access to care via telehealth and technology.
- Provides a compelling explanation of how the AAMC TEC Award will help to advance to the program’s goals and impact.
- Demonstrates an effective sustainability plan including (as needed) internal support of the program.
- Explains how program, or aspects of the program, can be generalizable or transferable for adoption at other health systems.

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 under-resourced communities or populations that have barriers to optimal care.
- 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 healthcare 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-Award 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, awardees will be required to submit brief quarterly reports to the AAMC to document program experiences, lessons learned, and impact.

Over the course of the year, awardees will also participate in 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. AAMC will work with the awardee institutions to share generalizable approaches, strategies, and lessons learned (i.e., collaborate on resource development, participate/present in a conference, workshop, and/or webinar, etc.) to improve access and equity in health care through clinical delivery and medical training.

**Award Payment**
Funding will be distributed in one payment, expected to occur in June 2022, following the selection of awardees and the execution of award agreements.

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

Clinical Delivery: Programs addressing 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 five) 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 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 program meaningfully engages with communities and patients to establish trust and gain patient adoption and use of the program’s telehealth and/or technology services. (Maximum 350 words)

4. Include the impact and outcomes to date to show how your program directly promotes health care equity by reducing barriers associated with accessing care via telehealth and technology for the target population. (Maximum 500 words)

5. 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. If possible, include the current plan or process for continued engagement with key collaborators. (Maximum 350 words)

6. 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)

7. Could your program be replicated by others? Discuss key lessons learned in implementing this program that other health systems should consider, if they were to replicate your program. (Maximum 350 words)

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

9. Optional: You may upload up to two supplemental materials (e.g., patient outreach materials, program summaries, outcomes/impact data to date, marketing materials, etc.), no more than five pages per document, in your application submission.
Application Materials for Track 2—Medical Training

**Medical training:** Educational programs in undergraduate medical education, graduate medical education or continuing medical education and professional development that focus on access and equity in telehealth. These may include curricula, educational activities, assessment tools, and/or related resources, established within the context of AAMC Telehealth Competencies.

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

Please provide the following information:

1. Describe the telehealth 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. Description must include how equity is addressed in the training. Applicants should reference the AAMC’s Telehealth Competencies and clearly demonstrate the alignment of training with competencies in telehealth, with a focus on the elements of training that are aimed at access and equity. (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)

6. Upload a letter of support from institutional leadership (e.g., dean, residency director, DIO, department chair, telehealth director) that demonstrates support for the program and its sustainability and/or scale. The letter should not exceed two pages and must be on institutional letterhead.

7. **Optional:** You may provide up to two supplemental materials (e.g., syllabus, objectives, learners assessments, etc.), no more than five pages per document, in your application submission. Supplemental materials can be uploaded through the online submission portal.