

EVMS-Sentara Healthcare Analytics and Delivery Science Institute

Round 7 Pilot Grant

2022 Request for Proposals (RFP)

Description

The EVMS-Sentara Healthcare Analytics and Delivery Science Institute (HADSI) pilot 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 high priority areas in Hampton Roads as 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 and scored by blinded reviewers. The HADSI Steering Committee will then provide recommendations on funding to the HADSI Joint Governance Board. To review HADSI's vision, mission and goals, and previously funded projects, visit the HADSI website at www.evms.edu/hadsi.

Purpose

This grant program aims to support exploratory and developmental research projects to improve health outcomes and healthcare quality for adults and/or children. Proposals must emphasize how the research findings will be used to improve clinical practice and/or serve as pilot data for applying for additional grant funding.

HADSI recognizes the significant health disparities facing Hampton Roads, therefore proposals focused on health disparities, mainly related to HADSI's six priority areas, are particularly encouraged. Healthcare disparities refer to differences in access to, or availability of, services. Health disparities refer to the preventable variation in rates of disease occurrence and disabilities between socioeconomic and/or geographically defined population groups. Health disparities research can include the 1) development of illness or disability; 2) ability to obtain and utilize healthcare; and 3) health and healthcare outcomes.

Research Topics of Interest to HADSI

Please note that these topics are not listed in rank order. Please also note that proposing one of these priority topics as your research question does not obviate the requirement that your research question has to be sufficiently justified by a rigorous gap analysis as described in an existing systematic review, clinical guideline, or a de novo systematic review. The high priority areas for this round of pilot funding are:

- COVID-19 (e.g., health disparities in presentation, outcomes, or treatment of long haulers or vaccination)
- Cardiovascular diseases, including, obesity, diabetes, hypertension and metabolic disorders
- Opioids, alcohol, and other substance use and/or addiction disorders
- Cancer
- Mental health
- Maternal and child health

Funding

The maximum allowed funding per approved proposal is \$25,000 for one-year of research, with an optional one-year time extension, if needed, to meet project goals.

Proposal Guidelines

- Applicants must be EVMS faculty and/or Sentara personnel. Full-time EVMS faculty (salaried or non-salaried), Sentara-employed researchers, or community-based clinicians with a defined role at EVMS are invited to submit proposals. Multiple investigators from the same discipline may apply. However, participation by investigators with complementary areas of expertise (Team Science) from different disciplines is strongly encouraged. EVMS faculty who are part-time or community faculty are not eligible to be principal investigator (PI).
- An investigator may submit only one proposal as PI, but may be a collaborator on other proposals.

- PIs will be responsible for obtaining data, with the help of HADSI when necessary.
- PIs must propose a strong and significant scientific question/s with hypothesis/es, clearly explain the study methods, including the proposed study's data source, indicate the analytical plan of the study, and provide details on how the results of the study will be adopted into current practice, impact healthcare policy, or serve as pilot data for future grant submissions.
- If the project currently has external funding, the PIs should explain why additional funding is needed.

Review Criteria

Grant awards will be based on the following criteria:

Significance and Impact

- Project is consistent with the Institute's goals
- Project addresses important health outcome problem(s)
- Overall project goals will advance scientific knowledge
- Findings will improve the clinical infrastructure, improve current delivery science/practice, contribute to healthcare policy change, or will serve as pilot data for future extramural funding

Investigator(s)

- PIs, collaborators, and other researchers provide evidence of expertise in the research area
- For collaborations, the unique skill(s) 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

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 \$25,000. Allowable expenses may include direct research support. A sample HADSI budget template is available with this RFP.

Application Process and Requirements

Step One: Letter of Intent

A one-page letter of intent (LOI) is required before submitting a full proposal (LOI template last page of this RFP). **Please submit a PDF of the one-page LOI to overtoez@evms.edu.**

LOI's are due by 5:00 pm EST, Friday, June 24th, 2022.

Step Two: Submission of a Full Proposal

LOI's will be screened for relevance to the RFP. Investigators with selected LOI's will be invited to submit a full proposal. All PIs of selected LOIs will attend "Think Tank" meetings with the HADSI Research Support Team to determine the feasibility of the project, availability of the requested data variables in the datasets, and IRB considerations

etc. The HADSI Research Support team consists of members from the IRB, Office of Research, HADSI-EVMS and HADSI-Sentara staff, and the HADSI Director.

If invited to submit a proposal, a completed proposal package, including the signed Project Approval Form, must be submitted as one single PDF to overtocz@evms.edu before 5:00 pm EST on Friday, October 28th, 2022.

Conflict of Interest (COI)

All investigators will be required to follow their own institution's COI policy.

Reports and Seminar/s

An interim report will be requested 6 months after a grant award and a final report at the end of one year. The project PI (or a team representative) must present final study results at one of the HADSI seminars.

Required Documents for the Research Proposal Package

The research proposal must be typed, single-spaced, have margins of at least 0.5 inches, and use Arial 11-font. Proposal length is six (6) pages maximum (excluding abstract figures/tables, impact plan, institute goals, references, budget and budget justification, and administrative documents), with pages numbered. The research proposal consists of the following:

- **Scientific Abstract (maximum 30 lines on a separate page)**
- **Specific Aims (maximum 1 page)**: Provide an active title of each aim, followed by a clear description of how the aim will be implemented and the anticipated outcomes.
- **Significance and Innovation (maximum 1 page)**: 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.
- **Research Approach and Methods (maximum 4 pages)**: 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.

Other Required documents

- **Institute Goals**: On a separate page, outline how the proposal fulfills the institute's goals (**maximum 200 words**).
- **Impact Plan**: Describe how the results can be used to impact current delivery science, detail a dissemination plan for presenting and publishing findings, and specify future plans for extramural funding if applicable (**maximum 1 page**).
- **References**: Provide pertinent empirical studies published within the past 5 years (no page limit).
- **Biosketch**: NIH style bio-sketches must be provided for all investigators (**maximum 5 pages each**). A template is available at the HADSI website, www.evms.edu/hadsi. Biosketch pages do not count toward total proposal page count.
- **Budget**: A detailed, itemized budget must be provided. Justification of all budget items is required (**maximum 2 page**). [Budget Template](#)
- **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**).
- **Project Approval Form for EVMS-Sentara Healthcare Analytics and Delivery Science Institute Pilot Grant Program**: All investigators must be listed on the form. **The completed form must be signed by all parties.**

Important Dates

- **LOI's are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, June 24th, 2022** (send to overtoz@evms.edu)
- If applicants have questions related to the RFP, please contact Dr. Sunita Dodani at dodanis@evms.edu with a copy to Carter Overton at overtoz@evms.edu.
- Accepted LOI decision announced by end of **July 2022**

- Full proposals due by **5:00 pm on Friday, October 28th, 2022** (send to: vertocz@evms.edu)
- Announcement of Grant Awards by end of **December 2022**
- Award period: **One year, January-December 2023**

Application Documents

Application documents can be obtained from the HADSI website under:

HADSI Round 7 Pilot Funding at www.evms.edu/hadsi - HADSI Resources

Please contact HADSI for support on the LOI and/or full proposal writing. We encourage you to contact HADSI early in the process. Listed below are some of the HADSI resources available to you. A full list of resources is available on the HADSI website under **HADSI Services**, which can be provided after filling out a Request Form available on the HADSI website www.evms.edu/hadsi.

- **Data extraction** (EPIC, NCDR, STS, Cancer Registry) - Partnership with the Sentara Quality Research Institute allows HADSI to provide Sentara data to the researcher.
- **Statistical analysis** - Using SAS 9.4, R, and SPSS, HADSI team members have the ability to analyze any type of data for research studies, grants, and collaborations.
- **VHI data** - Collaborating with the EVMS Brock Institute, HADSI has access to de-identified 2008-2016 VHI inpatient hospital data.
- **Spatial analysis** - HADSI uses ArcGIS to model and analyze data spatially and geographically.
- **Research methodology and study design** - At any stage in the research process, the HADSI team will provide expert advice on research methodology and study design from proposal drafting to IRB submission.
- **Grant writing and reviewing** - HADSI provides comprehensive edits and technical review of grant proposals, as well as writing services for submission and collaboration.
- **Survey development and database design (REDCap)** - Online surveys and databases are created using the secure web application, REDCap. REDCap can be utilized to collect any data for online and offline research.

- **Manuscript development** - HADSI provides review, edits, writing, and submission of manuscripts at any stage in the research process.
- **Sample size calculation and power analysis** - Combining statistical analysis and study requirements, our HADSI team will help derive the optimal sample size for your study, as well as the statistical power needed to detect an effect.

For more information, please visit the HADI website at www.evms.edu/hadsi.

Questions

Direct questions regarding the proposal application process to Dr. Sunita Dodani, HADSI Director, at dodanis@evms.edu or contact the HADSI office at (757) 446-7991.

**EVMS-Sentara Healthcare Analytics and Delivery Science Institute Grant – Round 7
PILOT FUNDING - LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)**

Project Title:

PI(s) and Affiliation(s):

Team/Co-I(s) and Affiliation(s):

(Please do not exceed one page)

Brief background and study objective/hypothesis (max 3 sentences):

Design/methods (including data source to be used to show feasibility to complete study, and plan for data privacy and security):

Brief statistical analysis plan (including a list of primary study variables and statistical analyses to be conducted):

Implications of study results (contribution to the field and/or current practice)

Clear results dissemination and/or extramural funding plan:

Brief justification of budget:

Sincerely,

PI(s): signature block

PI(s) contact info:

EXAMPLE:

John Smith, MD

Assistant Professor of None

ABC School of Foundation Medical University

**HADSI Round 7 Pilot Funding One Year Budget Template
(only needed for applications selected to move forward)**

(Please provide a budget justification of all costs provided in the budget on a separate sheet)

Personnel Name	Role	% Effort	Fringe	Total Amount Requested
Personnel Subtotal				
Equipment/ Software				
Equipment/ Software Subtotal				
Patient Related Cost				
Patient Related Cost Subtotal				
Material & Supplies				
Material & Supplies Subtotal				

Travel Support				
Travel Support Subtotal				
Other Expenses (if any)				
Other Expenses Subtotal				
Grant Total				