

Request for Proposals for Inspiring Digital Health Innovations

Issued by: Digital Health Initiative

Full Proposals Due: Monday, March 17, 2025.

Overview

The Digital Health Initiative is pleased to announce its third seed grant program aimed at catalyzing new collaborations and innovative research in digital health that will lead to federal extramural grant applications. Pilot awards will be supported up to \$75,000 with a potential additional \$25,000 if there is work that will be done by the Software Development & Systems Design Core (SD2C). Applications that do not utilize the SD2C will be supported up to \$75,000. We anticipate funding three awards.

The SD2C was founded in 2023 for the purpose of servicing the University of Utah research community through the design, development, deployment, and maintenance of custom technologies. The SD2C offers the following services:

- Custom database creation and deployment
- Tailored data analysis pipelines
- Embedded systems design
- Mobile app and video game development
- Dynamic web development

Please see <https://cores.utah.edu/sd2c/> or contact [Andrew Moran](#) for more information on services and rates.

Timeline

- Deadline for submission is **Monday, March 17, 2025**, 11:59 pm local time.
- Funding will start as early as July 2025.

Research Scope

We invite applications that build upon existing strengths in digital health at UUH and develop the preliminary data and research collaborations required for developing competitive grant applications and/or commercialization opportunities.

Areas of interest include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Development of new digital health tools to address the needs of clinicians, individuals, and populations
- Use of digital health to facilitate personalized, value-driven, and patient-centered care
- Integration of patient-generated health data with clinical data to improve outcomes
- Novel applications of gaming techniques to critical digital health research questions
- Novel visualization techniques and frameworks to support research and discovery
- Critical examinations of digital health infrastructure and/or policy
- Addressing digital health biases, disparities, ethical dilemmas, and historical realities

We encourage projects to strongly consider the following:

- Projects that utilize the SD2C
- New collaborations between clinical and research faculty, faculty from different departments, or cross-campus collaborations.
- Proposals from early career faculty or proposals from established investigators that represent new research directions

Eligibility

- Only one research proposal per principal investigator (PI) will be reviewed.
- All primary applicants (PIs) must be at least 0.75 FTE tenure-track faculty or 0.75 FTE clinical/research faculty at the University of Utah/VA.

Review Criteria

Preference will be given to projects that include all five of the following features:

- Have significant scholarly merit
- Demonstrate innovation in digital health
- Have a high potential for future extramural funding from entities like the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, or foundations dedicated to research
- Are not currently supported by extramural funding in the seed grant topic area
- Represent work from new collaborative teams or that support the career development of junior faculty or new direction for an established PI

Application Instructions:

Applications and all supporting documents should be submitted electronically through the University of Utah's Competition Space interface at <http://utah.infoready4.com/> by Monday, March 17, 2025.

Applications must include:

1. A lay abstract for the general public (up to a ½ page). Please make sure to address the significance of the proposed project and how these funds will help future research efforts. For help with a lay abstract, see: [Dubé, C.E. & Lapane, K.L. J Canc Educ \(2014\) 29: 577. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-013-0570-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-013-0570-1)
2. A brief proposal (1 page, plus references on additional pages as needed). Please address Significance, Innovation (include proposed role/contributions for each team member and investigator synergy), and Approach.
3. A plan for extramural funding and collaboration (up to a ½ page). This plan must speak to specific plans including funding mechanism/call, a group plan for the next 5-10 years, leadership plan and collaborative group meeting plan (including evidence of success for currently meeting groups).
4. Biographical sketch for each co-investigator (5 pages max).
5. Current and pending support for each co-investigator.
6. If human subjects or animal research is involved, provide one copy of the IRB or IACUC confirmation. IRB and any required IACUC approvals must be in place before funds are released, but not required for submission.
7. Proposed project budget (not to exceed \$100,000), following the guidelines below. Please describe in the budget document how funds will be distributed between

investigators. (Note, funds will be distributed from the SVPHS Research Unit to a single PI on each grant for further distribution to the rest of the collaboration)

8. If support from the SD2C is requested, please include a quote. Funds will be distributed directly to the SD2C.

Items 1-7 must be submitted as one PDF.

Budget Guidelines

Funding is available for salaries and fringe benefits of post-doctoral fellows, students, technicians, and other non-faculty project personnel, supplies, miscellaneous expenses, and services. Grant funds cannot be used for faculty salaries (summer or academic year); travel (e.g., conferences cannot be supported by this grant); consultants; or office equipment, including computers (unless specifically justified). Please prepare a one-page budget with maximum direct costs of \$75,000 for one year of support (with the potential of an additional \$25,000 SD2C quote). The budget template on Competition Space (<https://utah.infoready4.com/>) is not required but may be used for this purpose.

Evaluation and Funding of Proposals

Proposals will be reviewed by the DHI Leadership as well as ad hoc members to assess innovation, scholarly merit, likelihood for success, and external funding, and alignment with the mission of the DHI. If human participants are involved, one copy of the IRB approval will be required prior to release of funds. Final decisions will be made by the DHI Executive Steering Committee. Unused funds must be returned to the DHI after one year. However, recipients can submit, no later than two months before the one-year deadline, an explanation of why the funds have not been spent and a plan to spend out the grant after the one-year deadline. In such cases, the DHI Leadership will decide if additional time will be allowed. Grant administration is the responsibility of the Principal Investigators.

Progress Report:

At the end of the project period and for at least the following three years, funded proposals must provide a progress report using the InfoReady platform. Also, a presentation at either the annual symposium or an DHI seminar is expected and will be coordinated by administrative staff after the conclusion of the funding cycle.

Questions? If you have any questions or would like early feedback if your proposal is in alignment with the goals of DHI, please feel free to email Chelsie Smith at chelsie.smith@hsc.utah.edu.