Request for Proposals

AAMC Health Professions Education Curricular Innovations Grant Program:

Kickstarting Strategies for Addressing Health Misinformation

(Submission Deadline: April 4, 2022)

Background Information
The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) seeks to support health professions schools and programs in medicine, pharmacy, and nursing in kickstarting efforts to advance educational practices and explore the role of health professions educators in addressing health misinformation and improving trust with the patients and communities they serve. The AAMC, through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is engaged in a strategic initiative to increase confidence in COVID-19 vaccines and address medical misinformation and mistrust through health professions education. With support from the CDC, the AAMC will award several cost-reimbursable curricular innovations grants ranging from $25,000-$35,000 each to support the initial development of competency-based, interprofessional strategies for preparing learners to confront health misinformation and the integration of these strategies into new or existing curricula.

Program Goal
The goal of this grant program is to support the initial development or plan for developing competency-based, interprofessional strategies to mitigate health misinformation and integrating them into new or existing curricula in order to enhance health professions’ capacity to confront misinformation. Although we recognize that demonstrable outcomes may be limited given the restricted timeframe for the awarding of funds, ultimately the goal of this grant program is for learners in medical, nursing, and pharmacy schools to demonstrate improvements in their capacity to communicate about health information and dispel misinformation, myths, and disinformation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Successful proposals will describe the initial development of curricula or resources to confront health misinformation and to integrate these strategies within medical school curricula. Interprofessional proposals showing collaboration across medicine, nursing, and/or pharmacy programs are strongly encouraged.

Eligibility
Applicants from AAMC member institutions—ideally in collaboration with their colleagues from the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), American Association for Colleges of Nursing (AACN)—are eligible and invited to apply to the grant program. Applicants/Project Leaders (PLs) must be from an AAMC member institution. The grant application includes the opportunity to list four additional collaborators in addition to the PL.
Proposal Requirements and Guidelines
All applications must be submitted in an online application portal (CadmiumCD) and include:

- **Proposal narrative:**
  - Title (200-character limit).
  - Name, title, and institution of project leader and other key personnel (up to 5 individuals total). Note: If the application represents more than one institution, a lead institution must be identified.
  - Project background and goals, (2,000-character limit)
  - Up to three (3) project objectives (350-character limit for each objective).
  - Brief summary of relevant research to support the educational innovation (2,000-character limit).
  - Strategies or methods: the strategy, approach, and/or methods to begin development of the resource(s) or curricula (2,000-character limit).
  - Expected outcomes and performance measures. For purposes of this grant, short-term outcomes are expected. (2,000-character limit)
  - Plan for sustaining the innovation efforts beyond the award period (2,000-character limit).
  - References.

- **Additional required elements (to upload as attachments):**
  - Biosketches of key personnel on project team (maximum 1 page per individual).
  - Budget and budget justification:
    - Budget cannot exceed $35,000 and should include itemized costs and a justification for each cost category.
    - If there are multiple institutions, submit one budget for the entire project and break out how the funds will be divided between the lead and partnering institutions. Funding will be made available to the lead institution on a cost-reimbursable basis.
    - Allowable costs include administrative or technical support to carry out specific project-related work, supplies, communication expenses, salary support and applicable institutional Federally approved fringe benefits for specific work related to the project, indirect costs, and travel support for project collaborators directly related to the development of the resource(s).
    - Unallowable expenses include research, overhead, travel unrelated to the development of the resource(s), and travel to meetings and conferences.
  - Letter from host institutional review board indicating review and approval, if relevant to your institution (some IRBs require educational activities or quality improvement efforts to be reviewed to determine if exempt/non-exempt from IRB review).
  - Approved negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, if requesting indirect costs.
Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Contains all required information.
- Meets eligibility requirements, including budget expenses.
- Aligns with project goals.
- Offers an innovative approach to teach or assess strategies to address health misinformation.
- Presents a viable sustainability plan beyond the funding period.
- Proposes a timeline is clear and on target.

Timeline and Key Dates

- March 21, 2022: Application submission portal opens (link will be added, when live).
- **April 4, 2022, at 11:59 pm Pacific Daylight Time: Application submission portal closes.**
- April 22, 2022: Anticipated announcement of challenge grant awardees.
- May 1–September 29, 2022: Anticipated award period (~5 months).
- Narrative and financial reports due 30 days following the conclusion of the award period.

Award Information

Awards ranging from $25,000-$35,000 will be made through a fully executed cost-reimbursable subaward agreement between the AAMC and grantee. Approved activities may only be conducted during the award period of performance, from approximately May 1, 2022 to September 29, 2022. Grantees will be required to submit narrative and financial reports and invoices for cost-reimbursable expenses, requirements for which will be included in the subaward agreement.

For More Information

Inquiries should be addressed to Anne Berry, Lead Specialist for Implementation Research & Policy, at aberry@aamc.org or (202) 739-2987.

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