

Office of Discovery and Translation (ODAT) 2019 Translational Grant Program Targeted Request for Applications: Innovation in Informal Care Delivery

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Family and other unpaid/informal caregivers play a critical role in the delivery of healthcare that is often invisible to the healthcare system. They ensure that patient's basic and medical needs are met and are the interface between medical care providers and the patient. The demands of this role take a toll not only on caregivers emotionally, physically and financially, but also the economy, with services provided by unpaid caregivers valued at \$500 billion in 2017. Informal caregiving presents unique challenges and opportunities for technology innovation to improve the health of the caregiver and the patient. The purpose of this funding program is to support innovation of new products or services that improve the experience of unpaid caregivers, and positively impact patient health in Minnesota and the nation.

In 2019, the Translational Grant Program is targeted to support the development of innovations that address challenges faced by family caregivers. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Managing communication between multiple medical specialties
- Coordinating care and scheduling medical appointments
- Monitoring patient safety
- Ensuring patient compliance with recommended care or home-based therapies
- Communicating with patients that have limited/declining speech and/or cognitive ability
- Assisting with care transitions between various care settings (e.g. inpatient to home health)
- Managing symptoms and medications
- Caregiver tools, training and education

Priority will be given to projects focused on developing novel innovations that will lead to new products and services that are not already commercially available. This program is not intended to support the study of new uses for already available technologies or products, unless these new uses require novel technology development. Please see the "Project Eligibility" section below for more details.

For each funded project, a Project Development Team (PDT) will be established in collaboration with the PI to include the appropriate expertise to determine critical project milestones, identify key gaps, and strengthen the likelihood for progress toward eventual development into a new product, service or approach. Teams may include both UMN and external members.

Submission of a brief letter of intent (LOI) is required. The purpose of the LOI is to confirm applicant eligibility, ensure that the project fits with the purpose of this funding mechanism, and enable the identification of reviewers with applicable expertise.

The CTSI anticipates funding up to 4 projects in 2019. Each award will be for up to \$50,000 direct costs for one year. No indirect costs are allowed.

SUBMISSION, REVIEW, AND AWARD DATES

LOI submissions due date	April 10, 2019 (5:00 p.m.)
Invitations to submit full proposals issued	On or before May 6, 2019
Full proposal due date	June 5, 2019 (5:00 p.m.)
Review period	June-July, 2019
Awards announced	August 2019
Anticipated award start date	October 2, 2019

INVESTIGATOR ELIGIBILITY

1. U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and non-permanent residents are eligible.
2. The principal investigator (PI) must have a faculty appointment at the University of Minnesota at the time of grant submission. Eligibility includes affiliated faculty at the VA, HCMC, Regions Hospital, and the Children's Hospitals of Minnesota. Faculty members holding adjunct appointments are ineligible.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Examples of eligible project types include but are not limited to:

1. Wearable technology
2. Remote monitoring devices
3. Adaptive and assistive technology
4. Service models
5. Digital health tools

Note: Clinical research studies using human subjects are outside the scope of this funding mechanism. However, proposals including patient surveys or user feedback studies may be allowed.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Note: Both the Letter of Intent and Full Proposal will be submitted using an online form by accessing the links identified below. If you have questions about this process, please contact Jodi Fenlon Rebuffoni (fenl0003@umn.edu).

Step 1 – LOI Submission

Mandatory letters of intent (LOIs) are due on April 10, 2019 at 5 p.m. and must be submitted in an online form (see link below). The information required in the LOI includes:

1. Project title
2. PI(s) name(s) and contact information
3. Co-investigator(s) name(s)
4. What is the unmet medical or healthcare need being addressed?
5. Why are currently available products and services inadequate?
6. Brief description of the project based on its current status
7. Brief description of the future product or service that you envision your project will lead to and how it will address the unmet need.
8. Summary of specific work to be supported with funding (up to \$50,000)
9. Whether the technology has been disclosed to UMN Technology Commercialization

Letters of intent must be submitted through the following link:

<https://redcap.ahc.umn.edu/surveys/?s=MMPMLHW3X8>

Note: You may save and return to complete your submissions at any time using the code provided when the “Save and Return Later” option is selected. To return to the form re-click the link identified above.

Letters of intent will be evaluated to confirm eligibility of the applicant and to ensure that the project fits with the purpose of this funding mechanism. Individuals invited to submit a full proposal will be notified approximately one month following receipt of LOI. At that time, further instructions for proposal submission will be provided.

Step 2 – Proposal Submission (by invitation)

A faculty member may apply for only one grant per cycle on which he/she would be the PI or co-PI. There is no limitation to the number of grants on which a faculty member would participate as a co-investigator or collaborator. Details about the full proposal content and submission process will be provided to those individuals invited to submit proposals. In brief, the following information will be required in full proposals:

1. Executive summary
2. Proposed product or service
3. Project background
4. Work Plan
5. Collaborators and other sources of support
6. Intellectual property status
7. Strategic partnerships (if applicable)
8. Project team roles and responsibilities
9. Project timeline
10. Budget overview and personnel expenses
11. Biosketches
12. Letters of collaboration (if applicable)

REVIEW PROCESS

1. LOIs will be screened by program administration. Full proposals will be invited for those LOIs that meet eligibility requirements and fit with the stated goals of the funding program.
2. Full proposals will undergo scientific review *and* an assessment of the translational potential of the project. Full proposal review may include review by external experts operating under a confidentiality agreement.
3. Applicants whose proposals receive the highest scientific and translational potential scores may be asked to interview with a review team to address issues raised in the proposal review.
4. Applicants selected for funding will be asked to make appropriate revisions to their work plan reflecting feedback from reviewers.

EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. *Medical Need and Impact*: Does the project focus on an unmet need faced by family caregivers and have the potential to significantly improve the experience and/or health of caregivers or improve outcomes for the person receiving care?
2. *Translational Focus*: Has the project advanced to where the focus is predominantly on developing a solution to the identified need rather than further research on the problem?
3. *Feasibility*: Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analysis well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the goals of the project? Is the proposed work focused on translation of a research finding rather than further research?
4. *Expertise*: Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Does the PI or investigative team have the necessary expertise to conduct the proposed work?

5. *Scientific quality*: Does the project have its origins in innovative, high-quality research conducted by the PI(s)?

FUNDING PERIOD EXPECTATIONS

1. A Project Development Team (PDT) will be formed in collaboration with the PI for each funded application to assist and facilitate progress toward achieving specific milestones. The members of the PDT may be UMN staff or faculty or external advisors and will be selected based on their expertise and capability to provide constructive input on the project. An initial meeting between program administration and grantee will be held at the time the grant is funded to discuss funding expectations and PDT member recommendations.
2. Grantees will have periodic meetings with the PDT following initiation of the award. The purpose of PDT meetings will be to provide support toward the achievement of project milestones, provide status updates to PDT members, and to make any mid-course corrections that reflect unexpected results or the need to modify the experimental design. Advancement of the projects toward the development of a new product or service will be tracked following the conclusion of funding.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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