



AAMC Nurturing Experiences for Tomorrow's Community Leaders (NEXT) Grant

Request for Applications

Deadline for Applications: April 3, 2023

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Key Dates and Information:

Request for Applications Released	February 13, 2023
Application Deadline	April 3, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. ET
Notification of Selection	May 1, 2023
Project Start Date	July 1, 2023
Award Period	2 years (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025)
Number of Awards Expected	5
Amount of Individual Awards	Up to \$40,000 for the overall award period

Background

Racial, health, and health care inequities remain a national concern and an area of focus for the nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals. With the implementation of health care reform and the challenges associated with rising health care expenditures, COVID-19, and lagging population health outcomes, AAMC member institutions are increasingly engaging with community partners to address local health priorities. Community-partnered solutions are necessary as the United States continues to confront racial and ethnic inequities rooted in systemic racism.

Educating and training the next generation of health professions leaders in how best to partner with their communities is essential to addressing systemic racism to improve population health. Health care providers must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to deliver high-quality, equitable health care in their communities and know how to engage in collaborative environments.

To further enhance the teaching and application of principles to advance racial equity in our nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals, the AAMC is seeking applications for the [AAMC Nurturing Experiences for Tomorrow's Community Leaders \(NEXT\) Grant](#). Eligible applicants include AAMC-member institutions that represent accredited medical schools and teaching hospitals, and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited U.S. residency programs. This grant, now in its third year, seeks to support equitable and sustainable medical education initiatives that specifically address racism through community partnerships. **The AAMC will award five (5) grants of up to \$40,000 each to develop or enhance an initiative that addresses local community health needs to confront racism and advance racial equity. The award period for this grant will be two years from the project start date.**

Goals

The primary goals of this competitive grant are to:

1. Create or enhance opportunities to engage learners in health and health care educational initiatives to confront racism and advance health equity in partnership with local communities.
2. Increase learners' knowledge about and ability to apply anti-racism, social justice, and health equity principles within the context of a community-level issue.
3. Promote collaborative, community-engaged, and intersectional approaches to improving health outcomes among communities and patients who have been historically marginalized.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are AAMC-member institutions that represent accredited medical schools and teaching hospitals and ACGME-accredited U.S. residency programs.

All applicants must:

- Engage with at least one independent community partner in all aspects of the project from development to completion; and
- Include an institutional faculty sponsor.

Although institutions may submit multiple applications, no more than one grant will be made to a medical school, teaching hospital, or residency program. Proposed projects must involve medical students, residents, or both. We also strongly encourage the inclusion of interprofessional learners.

Award Information

These grants are supported by the AAMC's Strategic Plan, [Action Plan 3: Equip Medical Schools and Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems to Become More Inclusive, Equitable Organizations](#). The AAMC expects to issue up to five (5) awards to accredited AAMC-member institutions or ACGME-accredited U.S. residency programs, each of which will receive up to \$40,000 to support the development or expansion of experiential community-partnered learning opportunities involving medical students, residents, or both. Projects must focus on confronting racism to advance health equity.

Funding up to \$40,000 will be distributed in three payments per the terms and conditions in the Notice of Award. Grantees will receive approximately one-third of the funding in the first payment. The second and final payments will be made, respectively, after review and approval of the 6-month and 12-month progress reports. The budget period will conclude 24 months from the date of funding distribution. **All projects must be completed by June 30, 2025.**

Funding may be used to support project-related salaries and fringe benefits. Examples of other allowable expenses include project materials, supplies, stipends (e.g., community partners), contractual and consultant costs, and project-related travel expenses that are not explicitly excluded below.

Costs that are not allowed include indirect costs (sometimes referred to as overhead or F&A costs), alcoholic beverages, travel to meetings and conferences (including Learn Serve Lead: The AAMC Annual Meeting), subawards to other AAMC-member institutions, and expenses that could be perceived as endorsing or recommending specific commercial products, processes, or services, including advertising or fundraising drives; partisan, political, or denominational programs; or reimbursement or repayment of any public or private obligation.

Application Submission

Applications must be submitted **as portable document format (.PDF) files** via the [Cadmium Abstract Scorecard online portal](#). Incomplete applications will not be considered or reviewed. Applicants must upload the required documents as outlined below.

The letter of support must be completed and emailed by the community partner to AdvancingEquity@aamc.org. Letters of support submitted by the applicant will not be accepted.

Application Format:

- 12-point font
- Single spaced
- 1-inch margins
- Use section headings based on the numbered items listed below under “Proposal Narrative”
- The proposal narrative and optional references must not exceed five (5) pages (the curriculum vitae or résumé and project budget should be uploaded separately in the portal)
- .PDF files (narrative, CV/résumé, and budget)

Applications must include the following:

Proposal Narrative:

1. Project Title.
2. Describe **the local or regional community-level issue the proposed project will address.**
3. Describe **the proposed project to develop or enhance an experiential community-partnered learning opportunity that addresses racism to advance health equity in the local community.** The description should include each of the following: 1) project objectives and rationale; 2) measurable goals, expected outcomes, and evaluation plan; 3) how medical students, residents, or both will be engaged; and 4) how the project will support collaboration across other institutional mission areas (e.g., clinical care, medical education, and research).

4. Describe **how the proposed project will partner with the community** (e.g., community members, community-based organizations, patients, tribal governments, members, or organizations) during the funding period. The description should include each of the following: 1) community partner(s) full names and brief description; 2) description of the new or existing relationship with the community partner; and 3) description of measures to ensure equity is built within the partnership during the funding period (e.g., decision-making, power-sharing, communication).
5. Describe how the proposed project will **increase learners' knowledge about and ability to apply anti-racism, social justice, and health equity principles** within the context of a community-level issue.
6. Describe **how the proposed project develops community health leadership skills** for medical students, residents, or both (e.g., anti-racism, advocacy, communication, epidemiology, program management, research, teamwork).
7. Describe **how the proposed project will advance local community health** and could be adapted for other medical schools or teaching hospital-community organization partnerships.
8. Describe the plan for **sustaining the proposed project and relationships** with the community partners(s) beyond the funding period.
9. Project timeline.
10. *Optional*: List of references (e.g., articles, community health needs assessments) related to the proposed project.

Supporting Documentation:

1. Curriculum vitae or résumé of the primary faculty sponsor listed on the application form.
2. Itemized project budget and budget narrative outlining proposed direct costs (e.g., salaries, fringe benefits, supplies, contractual and consultant costs).
3. One (1) letter of support from a community partner working on the proposed initiative emailed to AdvancingEquity@aamc.org. The letter should include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Brief description of community partner.
 - b. History of the existing or new partnership with the medical school or teaching hospital.
 - c. Reason for collaborating with the medical school or teaching hospital and supporting the proposed project.
 - d. Description of how the proposed project goals align with the interests and needs of the community partner.
 - e. Description of how the community partner will benefit from the partnership and proposed project.

Submission Deadline

Applications must be submitted via the [Cadmium Abstract Scorecard online portal](#) no later than **April 3, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Applications and letters of support will not be considered after this date and time. Incomplete applications (including the letter of support) will not be considered or reviewed.

Application Review

An AAMC staff review panel that represents work units across the Association will evaluate completed applications based on the selection criteria. Applicants will be notified of final decisions by **May 1, 2023**.

Selection Criteria

The staff review panel will evaluate completed applications using the following criteria:

- Extent to which the initiative addresses an identified community health issue to dismantle racism and advance health equity.
- Knowledge of community-informed issues (e.g., linked to a community health needs assessment, feedback from the local community or health department).
- Demonstration of equitable partnership between the institution and community partner(s) across each stage of the proposed project (i.e., concept, planning, decision-making, implementation, evaluation, dissemination).
- Demonstration of community benefit through shared leadership with the local community, community partner (s), local, county or state health department, and other relevant partners.
- The aspects and extent to which learners will be involved and how their role will develop their population health leadership skills (e.g., anti-racism, advocacy, communication, epidemiology, program management, research, teamwork) that best serve the needs of the community.
- Feasibility of the proposed project and ability to be completed by the end of the funding period.
- Evaluation plan detailing how project goals will be met and how they can be measured within the funding period.
- Extent to which the budget supports the equitable distribution of funds to the community partner(s).

Deliverables

- Specific reporting deadlines and requirements will be included in the terms and conditions of the Notice of Award.
- An interim progress report and financial report will be due to the AAMC approximately 6, 12, and 18 months following the issuance of the Notice of Award.
- A final progress report (including program evaluation outcomes) and financial report are due to the AAMC 90 days after the end of the award period.
- Templates will be provided for the progress reports and final report.
- Awardees will be expected to provide project status updates to the AAMC program staff by email as needed and during at least two teleconference meetings during the funding period.
- Community partners will be expected to submit a partnership evaluation to evaluate the collaborative process with the institution to accompany the 12-month progress report and final report.
- Awardees may also be featured as an institutional exemplar via AAMC media outlets (e.g., news article, infographic, video, webinar).

Application Checklist

Applicants should submit their online application form via the [Cadmium Abstract Scorecard online portal](#) by **April 3, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. ET**, including:

- Proposal narrative
- Primary faculty sponsor's curriculum vitae or résumé
- Itemized project budget
- Budget narrative

Applicants should retain the automated email confirmation from AdvancingEquity@aamc.org for the completed submission.

Community partner should email their letter of support to AdvancingEquity@aamc.org by **April 3, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. ET**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will an application be considered if the proposed project does not involve addressing racism with an identified community partner?

No. Successful applicants for this cycle of the AAMC NEXT Award must propose to develop or expand a project that addresses racism at the local level through community partnerships.

2. How is community defined?

For this grant, community is defined as community organizations or individuals directly affected by the health issues being addressed (e.g., community members, community-based organizations, patients, tribal governments, members, or organizations).

Community engagement is defined as “the process of working collaboratively with groups of people who are affiliated by geographic proximity, special interests, or similar situations with respect to issues affecting their well-being.” (CDC, 1997).

3. Are schools of osteopathic medicine eligible to apply?

No. Applicants must be from AAMC-member institutions or ACGME-accredited U.S. residency programs.

4. Are students eligible to apply?

Yes. However, because awards are made to the institution, student applicants must have a faculty sponsor at an accredited AAMC-member institution or ACGME-accredited U.S. residency program.

5. Can an institution or residency program submit more than one application?

Yes, but not more than one award will be made to an institution.

6. What are the allowable expenses for this award?

Funding may be used to support:

- Project-related salaries and fringe benefits;
- Project materials;
- Supplies;
- Stipends (e.g., community partners);
- Contractual and consultant costs;
- Project-related travel expenses that are not explicitly excluded below.

Expenses that are *not* allowed include:

- Indirect costs (sometimes referred to as overhead or F&A costs);
- Alcoholic beverages;
- Travel to meetings and conferences (including Learn Serve Lead: The AAMC Annual Meeting);
- Subawards to other AAMC member institutions; and
- Expenses that could be perceived as endorsing or recommending specific commercial products, processes, or services, including advertising or fundraising drives, partisan, political, or denominational programs, or reimbursement or repayment of any public or private obligation.

7. How do I submit an application?

Applications must be submitted no later than April 3, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Applications and letters of support will not be considered after this date and time. Incomplete applications (including the letter of support) will not be considered or reviewed.

Applications must be submitted as portable document format (.PDF) files via the [Cadmium Abstract Scorecard online portal](#). Incomplete applications will not be considered or reviewed. Applicants must upload the required documents as outlined on **pages 3 and 4 under “Proposal Narrative” and “Supporting Documentation.”**

The letter of support must be completed and emailed by the community partner to AdvancingEquity@aamc.org. Letters of support submitted by the applicant will not be accepted.

Application Format:

- 12-point font
- Single spaced
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- .PDF files (narrative, CV/résumé, and budget)

Additional Questions

Please direct all inquiries and communications to:

Katrice D. Cain, MA
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Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
AdvancingEquity@aamc.org