

2018 Telehealth Implementation and Evaluation Grant

Proposal Deadline

Monday, February 26, 2018, 11:59P

Summary

The South Carolina Telehealth Alliance (SCTA) has allocated funds for five \$20,000 awards for telehealth¹-based pilot projects that aim to accelerate the adoption, utilization, and investigation of telehealth interventions across South Carolina. This funding is intended to provide assistance to South Carolina clinicians and researchers in their efforts to develop, implement, and evaluate telehealth solutions. Preference will be given to applications for projects that have 1) the potential to be scalable and sustainable, 2) save costs while improving care, 3) are in line with the healthcare needs of South Carolina, and 4) aim to improve the equitable distribution of telehealth services across South Carolina.

¹ Telehealth may be defined as the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration (Healthit.gov).

Eligibility

Any healthcare provider, researcher, or organization in South Carolina is eligible to apply. *The team's efforts must include a Clinical application AND an Outcomes evaluation.* Preference will be given to multi-organizational collaboration across SC. See Award Details section below for more information.

Funding

Funds can be used to cover direct costs only; indirect costs are not allowed. Some video conference endpoint equipment and other telehealth hardware and software may be available from the SCTA and can be requested using the following link:

https://is.gd/SCTA_Equipment_Request_Form. Please list any requested equipment in Subsection B of your Budget - this will not count against grant funding. Typical equipment provided and supported by SCTA through this mechanism may be found below:

- Telemedicine carts
- Examination devices (examination cameras, stethoscopes, peripherals)
- Video conferencing units and associated software
- High definition video cameras
- Screens
- Computers/Laptops/Tablets used for video transmission

Additional equipment requests through the SCTA should not exceed \$25,000. For equipment requests outside of those typically awarded or of higher costs, please contact Ryan Kruis, SC Telehealth Alliance Coordinator, at ryan@sctelehealth.org prior to submitting your application. Equipment type choices are subject to approval of parent organization and utilization of open access technologies per accompanying SCTA Technical Standards.

Submission of Proposal

Access the South Carolina Telehealth Alliance (SCTA) Telehealth Implementation and Evaluation grant RFA to submit your application at: <http://j.mp/2hYbLFX>

Submissions should include the following:

- 1) Include a Curriculum Vitae (CV) for Clinical and Outcomes PIs
- 2) Project Abstract
- 3) Project Description
- 4) Budget
- 5) Letter(s) of project approval from participating organizations/sites
- 6) Letter(s) of Support for partnering sites (if applicable)

Project Abstract [250 word maximum]

The project abstract should serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work when separated from the application. State the application's broad, long-term objectives, relevance to addressing South Carolina's healthcare priorities, and potential impact.

Project Description

Answer the following questions, limit each response to **250 words maximum**.

1. What is the problem that you are trying to solve?
2. How will telehealth be used to address this problem?
3. Has telehealth been used to solve this problem elsewhere? What were the results? How will your approach be similar and/or different?
4. For your project, what is the impact across the state of South Carolina, particularly in areas where telehealth is not used or underused? How will this save costs while improving care?
5. Why are you and your team uniquely qualified to lead this project? Include information on the Outcomes PI and Clinical PI here.
6. Describe the design and methods for your project. Include quantitative and/or qualitative considerations, and data sources you plan to use (if applicable).
7. How will you evaluate or measure the outcomes of this project? How will you determine that your project has been successful?
8. Describe the scalability and sustainability of this project.
9. How do you plan to disseminate the results of the project?
10. Please provide a justification of the expenses listed in your budget.

Evaluation criteria

Preference will be given to the most promising applications based on impact, sustainability, care improvement/cost savings, innovation, impact, and feasibility to address the healthcare needs of South Carolina. Applications will be evaluated by reviewers with appropriate expertise and ranked based on the following review criteria:

Core Review Criteria for Overall Impact/Priority Score:

- 1) Addresses problem in South Carolina applicable to rural and urban communities**
 - a) Does the project address an important South Carolina health problem or a critical barrier to accessing, financing or improving health using telehealth services?
 - b) Does the project aim to improve the equitable distribution of telehealth services across South Carolina?
- 2) Innovation**
 - a) Is the project or approach new and innovative?
 - b) Does the application challenge and seek to shift current clinical practice paradigms by using novel concepts, clinical approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions related to telehealth?
- 3) Cost savings, Care Improvement and Other Outcomes**
 - a) Are the costs of the program manageable irrespective of clinic size and geography?
 - b) Will providers and, most importantly, patients share in the cost savings?
 - c) Will the project improve outcomes beyond those in a traditional setting?
 - d) Does the project have high potential to secure future extramural funding?
- 4) Investigator(s), Approach and Dissemination**
 - a) Are key personnel associated with the project well suited to the project? Do they have established roles, skills and experience to carry out the project?
 - b) Is there a defined collaborative plan for clinicians to partner with researchers and vice versa?
 - c) Are the methods used appropriate? Are the investigators qualified to successfully complete them?
 - d) How will findings be disseminated? Is the strategy appropriate and realistic?
- 5) Scalability and Sustainability**
 - a) Is the overall implementation, methodology, and evaluation well reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?
 - b) Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented?
 - c) Are costs, personnel and project executables sustainable?
 - d) Can the project be scaled to suit the healthcare needs in rural vs. urban communities? Can it be scaled from practice to the state?

Award Details

- The South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research Institute (SCTR) has resources and consultation services (such as biostatistics, IRB, budget, regulatory, coordinator core and intellectual property consultations) that can help clinicians or investigators interested in applying under this RFA. Please submit your request for a consultation (sparc.musc.edu) or call the SCTR SUCCESS Center at 843-792-8300
- The South Carolina Telehealth Alliance (SCTA) will provide appropriate venues for matching clinicians with researchers to develop optimal evaluation plans for the project, host budget workshop(s) and train associated personnel. For questions, contact Suparna Qanungo, PhD at ganungo@musc.edu, Tatiana Davidson, PhD at davidst@musc.edu or Ryan Krus at ryan@sctelehealth.org.
- Funds cannot be released until all applicable institutional human, animal, and bio-safety protocols (e.g., IRB), and any other required regulatory documents (e.g., CITI Training) have been approved and documented.
- Principal investigators for funded projects will be required to submit (1) project progress reports every 6 months while the study is active, (2) a final detailed report once all study goals have been met, and (3) a brief annual progress report for 5 years after the project's closing date. Reports must indicate: program implementation and expansion, the number of subsequent grant award(s) and any publications or presentations that may have been based on the telehealth development and innovation grant.
- Awardees will be expected to present their project at a statewide telehealth conference (e.g., Annual Telehealth Summit of South Carolina).
- Awardees must agree to credit the South Carolina Telehealth Alliance (SCTA) in any publication, publicity or application that result from awards.
- It is the PI's responsibility to inform the South Carolina Telehealth Alliance (SCTA) of any changes to the project, including departure from the PI's institution. This will help to determine how both parties should proceed, such as transfer a PI's responsibility to another team member or to close out the project.
- Each proposal must consist of a Clinical PI and Outcomes PI. It is expected that these individuals work together to assure successful implementation and evaluation of the proposed project. Preference will be given if PIs come from different organizations across SC.
 - The *Clinical PI* must be a practicing clinician in the state of South Carolina. The grant funding is intended to provide resources for the Clinical PI to utilize telehealth with her/her patients.
 - The *Outcomes PI* must have sufficient training or experience in research methodologies to assure successful completion of the proposed evaluation. The Outcomes PI *does not* have to be at the same organization as the Clinical PI.

Note: Applications deemed to include inadequate information for submission will be given a two-week revision period, after which they will not be scored. Please allow sufficient time before the deadline to troubleshoot any unexpected problems in submitting the application.