

# AIM-AHEAD CLINAQ Fellows Program FAQs

## APPLICATIONS

### AIM-AHEAD CLINAQ Fellowship Program Applications-Related FAQs

#### Letters of support

Two signed letters of support from mentors, supervisors or director of training programs or collaborators are required. Both letters of support are due by Mon., June 23, 2025 at 11:59 ET.

#### Do I need an Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval before applying to the CLINAQ Fellowship?

No, the CLINAQ Fellowship will provide support on drafting IRB protocols and establishing any necessary Data Use Agreements relating to the fellows' projects. During the CLINAQ Fellowship, fellows will be submitting individual IRB protocols.

#### How can the AIM-AHEAD CLINAQ Fellows Program help further research and career goals?

The AIM-AHEAD CLINAQ Fellows Program provides critical opportunities for clinicians to integrate artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) expertise into their clinical practice and research, significantly enhancing their career trajectories and research impact. By providing structured mentorship, targeted training, and strategic opportunities for interdisciplinary research collaboration, the program uniquely prepares clinicians to meaningfully advance both their research portfolios and professional careers in the rapidly evolving healthcare landscape.

#### Is a particular format required for the proposal?

Yes, please see the Call for Proposals and/or the Fellows Program Application Form for details. ([Link](#)) and complete the InfoReady Application.

#### How many individuals can be covered by a fellowship?

Fellowship applications are limited to one individual.

#### What criteria will be used to review the Fellows applications?

See the Call for Proposals Selection Criteria. [Link](#)

#### What data sets can be used in the Fellows applications?

The CLINAQ Fellowship will have 7 dataset options.

1. A customized subset from [OCHIN Community Health Database](#)
2. [Curated AIM-AHEAD Data Bridge \(AADB\) Library](#) OR custom curated dataset from MedStar Health EHR
3. [60+ studies from NHLBI BioData Catalyst](#)
4. [Selected Open datasets on AWS](#)
5. [NIH All of Us](#)
6. [SchARE](#) Dataset List
7. Internal Dataset

See the AIM-AHEAD Data Infrastructure for more details

<https://www.aim-ahead.net/data-infrastructure/>

### **Who can I contact if I have questions about the application process/form?**

If the Call for Proposals and/or FAQs do not answer your questions, the AIM-AHEAD Coordinating Center is available to answer additional questions you may have. Questions regarding the Fellows Program may be directed to

<https://helpdesk.aim-ahead.net/ticket/create/Ca17C49858>

### **Will you provide feedback on proposals that have not been selected?**

Yes, each application will be reviewed by our review committee, and a summary of their feedback will be shared.

### **Are there restrictions on who can apply? What is the eligibility of the applicant?**

To be eligible for this program, the applicant must be a practicing clinician with an MD, DO, DDS/DMD, MD/PhD, PA, DNP/FNP, RN/PhD or similar degrees -- who is active in direct clinical care of patients. Additional professional designations may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Applicants with minimal or no AI/ML experience are encouraged to apply, but will need to identify an AI/ML mentor/collaborator with AI/machine learning expertise in their application. Qualifications of such pre-selected mentors will be carefully evaluated in the application review process.
- Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents, or Non-Citizen U.S. Nationals.
  - US Citizen definition: any individual who is a citizen of the United States by law, birth, or naturalization  
([https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def\\_id=42-USC-630966247-802284531&term\\_occur=1&term\\_src=title:42:chapter:99:section:9102](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=42-USC-630966247-802284531&term_occur=1&term_src=title:42:chapter:99:section:9102))
  - Permanent Residents definition: a status given to United States immigrants/non-citizen who can legally live in the United States in perpetuity  
([https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/lawful\\_permanent\\_resident\\_\(lpr\)](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/lawful_permanent_resident_(lpr)))
  - Non-Citizen Nationals definition: a person born in an outlying possession of the United States on or after the date of formal acquisition of the United States at birth (<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/8/1408>)

### **What is the Internal Submission Deadline?**

The Internal Submission **Deadline is the Submission Deadline: Monday, June 23, 2025 at 11:59pm EST**

**How does receiving co-current NIH grant funding work with this opportunity?**

Your effort needs to be at least 25% on the CLINAQ fellowship

**Is the letter of intent due today?**

No Letter of intent is needed for the CLINAQ fellowship.

**Who can write me a letter of support for the fellowship?**

Two signed letters of support from mentors, supervisors, or directors of training programs are required. Letters of support should be signed by pen or e-signature and include the reference's contact information (full name, position title, organization, email/phone number, and signature). At least one letter should be attesting to the dedicated time to the fellowship for the applicant

**Can I participate in the Fellows Program if I am already funded on another project?**

Participation in another fellowship program or award is acceptable as long as you abide by the regulations and restrictions of your other awards.

**For Biosketch, can we use the one that is automatically generated from SciENcv?**

If it addresses all of the sections, then yes. Make sure it is in the correct format and abide by NIH requirements.

**Can you speak to the competitiveness of this fellowship?**

We cannot share this number directly. Please spend time on this application for a well-polished one. Whether you are accepted to this fellowship or not. Your application can be used for future applications. We strongly recommend submitting your application.

**Can you use a signed IRB and DUA from another NIH program for the RFP?**

No. You can reuse your CITI certificate if it is not expired, however, you are not able to submit a signed IRB and DUA from another NIH program. We will be provided templates that are specific to the fellowship including for both IRB and DUA.

**SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION**

(Reviewer scores 1-9) (1 is the highest score. 9 is the lowest)

- The proposal outlines a high-impact research topic and speaks to novel approaches to meet challenges in the research area. (Reviewer scores 1-9)
- The proposal outlines how the selected dataset(s) will contribute to addressing the research topic, including the use of race and ethnicity variables. The applicant needs to check the availability of those variables in the selected datasets (Reviewer scores 1-9)
- The proposal address AIM-AHEAD North Star (III): Use AI/ML to address disparities and minority health in behavioral health, cardiometabolic health, and cancer. (Reviewer scores 1-9)

- The proposal addresses an important scientific question that can be usefully answered using the AIM-AHEAD ecosystem along with the available data resources within the 1-year timeframe. (Reviewer scores 1-9)
- The applicant has demonstrated the necessary background and capabilities to accomplish the proposed work. The Applicant's CV should also be checked at this stage. This is the first document uploaded. (Reviewer scores 1-9)
- The application describes approaches and/or tools that will benefit the functionality of the AIM-AHEAD ecosystem. (Reviewer scores 1-9)
- The applicant has a willingness to engage and collaborate with the AIM-AHEAD community, contribute to documentation and training resources, welcoming and empowering new users, and help foster a diverse and inclusive community. (Reviewer scores 1-9)
- Both references letters strongly support the applicant (Reviewer scores 1-9)

## FINANCE

### AIM-AHEAD CLINAQ Fellowship Program Finance-Related FAQs

Awardees will receive an award of up to \$55,475, which may be used for salary support, travel, training, publication, and conference fees over the twelve-month period. Fellows are expected to contribute a significant percentage of their time to their project proposals (25% / 10 hours a week at a minimum for each Fellow). Fellows are expected to work with their Institution's business office regarding their participation (time and effort) in the program.

#### **How are the funds awarded?**

Fellowship stipends will be paid as 4 quarterly equal payments for each of the four quarters of the year-long program.

#### **Can funds be used for travel?**

Yes, the award stipend does allow applicants to include applicable travel such as attending the Annual AIM-AHEAD Conference.

#### **Can AIM-AHEAD provide advice about taxes?**

No, we cannot provide tax advice.

## PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

### AIM-AHEAD CLINAQ Fellowship Program Period of Performance-Related FAQs

#### **Is this CLINAQ Fellowship remote?**

Yes, this fellowship is remote. There will only be 2 in-person meetings

**Do you expect Fellows to attend events or meetings?**

All Fellows will be expected to be involved in AIM-AHEAD activities during the year, including attending two annual consortium meetings in person or via Zoom as needed during the pandemic. Fellows are also encouraged to attend working group meetings and other events that are applicable to their project proposals.

**Where and when will the annual meetings occur?**

- TDD and Location to be determined.
- July or August 2026 and Location to be determined.

**Will cloud costs be covered by the Fellows Program?**

Reasonable cloud costs on Amazon Web Service using [Service Workbench on AWS](#) will be covered by the AIM-AHEAD program.

**Where can I share material developed during the project?**

Project materials and content contributions to the website are welcome in a variety of formats (e.g. research papers, presentations, project updates) via an outreach and conference attendance process. Fellows are expected to share their data, workflows, and software via the AIM-AHEAD ecosystem while also acknowledging the ecosystem in their materials.

**Will we be able to receive feedback on our application? Or is there a template we can look at?**

Yes you will receive feedback. We will send it back to you to edit and you will have 48 hours to resubmit. There is no template. You can view the questions when you start the application. When applying, you can save the draft and come back to edit whenever. You can submit whenever you are ready.