

2026 AMA Community Health Impact Lab micro grants

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

The American Medical Association regularly updates the FAQ with new additions featured first.

New FAQ additions (January 2026)

What types of organizations can apply?

Any organization that serves as the employer of the physician Principal Investigator (PI) is eligible to apply. This includes non-profit organizations, business entities, educational institutions, private and public health centers, health departments, etc. The organization must be legally registered and based in the U.S. or its territories.

What is the expected level of involvement for collaborating organizations of funded projects?

The expected level of involvement for collaborating organizations will be determined by the scope and activities of the funded project and the specific partnership arrangements between the submitting organization and its collaborators.

Can an organization or a PI submit multiple applications?

Yes, but each application must have a different physician PI as the lead. A physician PI can apply through any number of organizations that employ them, but a PI may only be awarded one (1) grant.

Does the co-PI have to be a licensed physician?

No.

Can a physician in private practice or a self-employed physician apply?

Yes, as long as there is an organizational structure set up for the business. If selected, the grant will be awarded to the submitting organization. For the application, the letter of support can be from the board, partner or another leader within the submitting organization.

If a physician PI is a volunteer at a non-profit clinic, can the clinic still apply?

The physician PI must be an employee of the institution that would receive the grant. However, a physician volunteer may be a part of the grant team.

What types of projects are you looking to fund?

This program supports creative, physician-led solutions that will make practical and measurable improvements in community health. We are looking for innovative ideas that focus on a clear health challenge for the intended audience and demonstrate impact and feasibility—with the potential to be scaled or replicated to benefit even more patients in communities across the country.

Can blood pressure cuffs, glucometers or other medical devices be purchased with grant funds?

Yes. Your budget may include equipment and supplies as well as personnel support, consultants, partnership contracts, travel and meetings and any other anticipated costs. Applications require an itemized budget and detailed budget narrative.

If awarded, will all the funding be distributed up front?

Yes, funding will be dispersed after contracting processes are completed.

Previously addressed FAQ

Eligibility criteria

Are projects outside of the U.S. eligible?

No.

Are specific patient populations prioritized?

No.

Do PIs need to be employed in patient care?

Any physician actively licensed in the U.S. or its territories can apply through their employer. This includes physicians in residency or fellowship programs, researchers, program directors and administrators. Micro grants are made to organizations and not to individual physicians.

Are first-time PIs and early career physicians eligible?

Yes, this includes residents and fellows who are actively licensed in the U.S. or its territories

Do PIs have to be a U.S. citizen?

No.

Do I need to be an AMA member to apply?

No.

Who is ineligible to apply?

Medical students, physicians practicing abroad and physicians not licensed in the U.S. or its territories are ineligible to serve as a PI, however, they may participate on a project team.

Is there a limit to how many organizations can collaborate on a proposal?

No.

Are collaborations with for-profit companies such as technology or device manufacturers (e.g., wearables) allowed?

Yes.

Application process

Can you provide a timeline of key dates?

Application opens: Nov. 13, 2025
Application deadline: March 1, 2026
Notification of awards: April 30, 2026

Who will review the micro grant applications?

Each submission will be reviewed by a dedicated team of AMA staff.

Will there be any open information sessions held about the application and awardee process?

Yes, a recording from the Dec. 15, 2025, informational webinar can be found on the AMA Community Health Impact Lab micro grants webpage at ama-assn.org/community-health. The next informational webinar will be held on Feb. 3 at 2:30 p.m. Central time. More information can be found at ama-assn.org/community-health.

Budget and funding

How much money will we receive if our project is selected?

We anticipate funding up to 20 micro grants, each \$50,000. Each application requires a completed budget and budget narrative.

What should I consider when preparing a budget?

Please refer to the budget template. All projected expenses during the grant period should be included in the budget and detailed in the budget narrative. In-kind support can be included. Any unused funds must be returned within 90 days from the final date of the micro grant period.

Are there any non-permitted costs?

Funding may not be used for political activities or lobbying, religious activities, international training, ongoing general operating expenses, capital expenses including construction or renovation, fundraising expenses, pharmaceuticals, loans and tuition, entertainment expenses such as social activities or alcoholic beverages. Also, indirect rates and overhead allocations will be capped at 10%.

Miscellaneous

Where can I find more information?

Visit the AMA Community Health Impact Lab micro grants webpage at ama-assn.org/community-health, email communityhealth@ama-assn.org or call (888) 262-9105. Support is available Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:45 p.m. Central time.