



Request for Proposals

Research on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Technology on Physician Wellbeing

1. Program Overview / Background

The emergence of generative AI in healthcare may be an answer to technology related physician burnout. The passive automation of data entry for documentation of patient care, the review and organization of data, integration of clinical decision support, and patient referral and education are but a few attributes of the potential uses of AI that can allow physicians to focus more on direct patient care and less on bureaucratic tasks. Properly implemented, generative AI could significantly reduce the incidence and severity of physician burnout, leading to improved wellbeing and better patient outcomes. However, this is not a given and we need to be aware that it could have unintended and negative impacts. There is a need to measure this as we deploy these technologies in the medical professional workplace.

The Physicians Foundation is seeking proposals for a research study to evaluate the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare technology on the wellbeing of physicians. This work would increase our understanding of how the integration of AI in healthcare, especially electronic medical records (EMR), affects the mental, emotional, and professional wellbeing of physicians.

Objectives

- To understand how the integration of AI in healthcare settings affects the daily workflow of physicians.
- To assess the impact of AI on physician burnout, mental health, and overall professional satisfaction.
- To identify both the benefits and challenges faced by physicians in adapting to AI-enabled healthcare technologies.
- To provide actionable recommendations for optimizing AI implementation in healthcare to support physician wellbeing.

This grant program will not fund existing continuing medical education offerings or other clinical education. Organizations with current grants from the Physicians Foundation are not eligible to apply.

Grantees are expected to include a plan for data analysis and evaluation and subsequently to execute this plan.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Applicant organizations must be:

- a. Tax exempt under section **501(c)(3)** of the Internal Revenue Code or educational institutions
- b. Not a private foundation as defined in IRC section 509 (a)
- c. Located in the United States

Note: The Foundation cannot award grants to organizations that do not fit these eligibility criteria. Ineligible applications will not be reviewed.

3. Selection Criteria

Selection will be based on the following:

- a. Alignment with priorities presented in this RFP
- b. Demonstrated knowledge and expertise on physician wellness
- c. Demonstrated knowledge and experience working directly with physicians
- d. Demonstrated knowledge and experience conducting research in a clinical setting
- e. Presentation of a detailed plan and timeline for accomplishing the project objectives, with realistic expectations, clearly defined goals, outcomes, and assigned resources
- f. Presentation of a plan for evaluation that defines desired short- and long-term outcomes and steps to collect data for measurement of progress towards those outcomes
- g. A well-justified budget derived from a clear and compelling understanding of resources needed to carry out the project successfully. The project budget must include a narrative describing each line item, including new salaried positions. If existing salaried positions are included in the budget, an explanation should be provided indicating why funding from the Foundation is needed to support those positions. Demonstration of replicability at a reasonable cost in terms of dollars and efficient use of human resources should be considered and explained.

4. Grant Size

Grants are available for projects up to two years in length. The Physicians Foundation anticipates funding in the amount of up to \$100,000 per grant, but ultimately proposals will be evaluated based on their merits, alignment with stated goals, and the potential impact of the proposed projects. We seek innovative and cost-effective solutions that demonstrate a clear understanding of the project's objectives and deliverables. No more than 15% of grant funds may be allocated to general administrative purposes or indirect project expenses. A limited number of grants will be made.

5. Evaluation & Monitoring

Projects should have a plan for evaluation that defines desired short- and long-term outcomes and steps to collect data for measurement of progress towards those outcomes. Evaluation plans should provide tools to assess the success of interventions and include both short and long-term evaluation parameters. Executing on evaluation plans during the project period is the sole responsibility of grantees. Grantees are expected to meet requirements for the submission of narrative and financial reports, as well as periodic information needed for overall project performance monitoring and management. They will be expected to produce scholarly products, to be presented at conferences or published in peer-reviewed literature, based on their work. Project directors may be asked to participate in telephone or in-person meetings and give progress reports on their work. In addition to the main evaluation, grantees will be asked to contribute data to a central repository of data regarding wellbeing interventions to be managed and analyzed in aggregate by the BWH and Physicians Foundation Center for Physician Experience, which is focused on approaches that

enhance physician wellbeing and quality of care. It is expected that grantees would work collaboratively with this Center on any aggregate analyses arising from use of this data repository.

6. Use of Grant Funds

Grant funds may be used for the following expenses: project staff salaries and benefits, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel and other direct project expenses. According to the Foundation's policy, grant funds may not be used for any of the following:

- Unrestricted general operating expenses
- Ongoing programs, or existing staff, unless their time is being redirected to a new project
- Payment for services of a fiscal agent
- Endowment funds
- Religious purposes
- Fundraising activities or events (e.g. annual fund drives, phone solicitations, benefit tickets)
- Capital expenditures by the grantee (e.g. repairs, equipment, etc.)
- Lobbying or political activities
- Activities related to litigation, arbitration or other dispute resolution
- Medical education at the undergraduate or residency training levels
- Research that is not practice-based
- Clinical research or animal research
- Research and/or development of drugs or medical devices
- Any activity inconsistent with the Foundation's status as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization

7. How to Apply

To apply for a grant, complete the [online application form](#) and follow the proposal instructions. Proposals must be complete and submitted with all required attachments in order to be considered for funding in this grant cycle. Please follow the proposal instructions closely and contact the Foundation's office if you have questions. An invitation to apply must come directly from the Physicians Foundation through GMA Foundations.

Please see below for instructions on accessing the application in the online system:

1. If you're new to the system, please reach out to Anna (adoggett@gmafoundations.com) to be set up with a username/password that will connect to your organization's existing account. If you're a returning user, please use your previously set up login information.
 - a. If you can't remember your password, please click the "Forgot your password?" link below the username/password entries to reset it.
2. Once you've logged in, please click the "Apply" link at the top left of the window and enter access code "**wellness**".
3. A link will appear below when you enter the access code. Please click the Apply button next to that text to begin the application.

8. Program Contacts

Questions about this RFP or the Foundation in general should be addressed to Rachel Rifkin (rrifkin@gmafoundations.com). Technical questions about the online application should be directed to Anna Doggett (adoggett@gmafoundations.com).

9. Timetable

RFP Release Date: January 26, 2024

Proposals Due: February 23, 2024
Funding Decisions: May 1, 2024
Project Start Date: May 8, 2024

10. About The Physicians Foundation

The Physicians Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to empower physicians to lead in the delivery of high-quality, cost-efficient healthcare. Since 2005, the Foundation has awarded numerous grants totaling more than \$57 million. As the U.S. healthcare system continues to evolve, the Physicians Foundation is steadfast in its determination to strengthen the physician-patient relationship, support physicians in sustaining their medical practices and help practicing physicians navigate the changing healthcare system. For more information, visit www.PhysiciansFoundation.org.