

Dean's Innovation Grants in Health Care Delivery: A collaboration with Ariadne Labs Spark Grant Program

Request for Proposals

Date of Issue: February 1, 2021

Harvard Medical School (HMS), in conjunction with Ariadne Labs, is pleased to announce the **Dean's Innovation Grants in Health Care Delivery: A collaboration with Ariadne Labs Spark Grant Program** for 2021. This collaboration invites eligible HMS faculty to apply for funding (details of eligibility below).

Application Process & Key Dates:

Activity	Date
Letter of Interest Due	Monday, March 15th at 5pm
Full Application Candidates Notified	Monday, March 29th
Full Application Due	Friday, April 30th at 5pm
Final Phone Interview	May 2021
Award Notification	June 2021
Spark Grant Project Kickoff	August/September 2021

Ariadne Labs Overview:

[Ariadne Labs](#) is a joint health system innovation center of Brigham & Women's Hospital and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, whose mission is to save lives and reduce suffering by creating scalable solutions that improve health care delivery at the most critical moments for people everywhere. Ariadne Labs has a collaboration with Harvard Medical School via the Dean's Innovation Grants in Health Care Delivery program.

Funding Purpose:

The Ariadne Labs Spark Grant Program was founded to "spark" new ideas and projects and to broaden the health systems innovation community. In collaboration with the Ariadne Labs Spark Grant Program, the goal of the Dean's Innovation Grants in Health Care Delivery is to support early-stage projects that are either designing **new interventions** or **new capacities** for solving major problems in the delivery of health care.

The Dean's Innovation Grants in Health Care Delivery will be advised by Ariadne Labs' innovation experts and integrated into Ariadne Labs' multidisciplinary team approach. All ideas to improve health care delivery are welcome. Special attention will be given to applications focused on **surgery, childbirth, primary health care, rural health, and serious illness care.**

Funding:

The period of performance for the Dean's Innovation Grants in Health Care Delivery is up to one year with *potential* for a second-round renewal (i.e., a maximum of two years of grant funding is possible). The maximum allowable budget for the first year is \$100,000 in total costs. The application process consists of two rounds (letter of interest and full application). The maximum of \$100,000 in total costs will be allocated as a maximum of \$80,000 in total costs to the investigator and \$20,000 in direct costs to Ariadne Labs to provide support to the investigator as described below.

This award presents a unique opportunity to engage with a multidisciplinary team at Ariadne Labs. If funded, the PI and their team will benefit from the Ariadne Labs Platforms: Innovation, Implementation, and Science and Technology (more details at the end of the RFP). Support will be based on project need and may include, for example, a design facilitator, implementation specialist, methodologist, project manager, or qualitative expert. In addition, the PI and their team will be encouraged to collaborate with other teams and content experts at Ariadne Labs. During the full application stage, applicants will be asked to identify the expertise or experts with whom they would like to engage. The Ariadne Labs Platforms resources are included in the \$20,000 Ariadne Labs allocation described above.

We anticipate funding up to 2 new projects in this 2021 cycle.

Eligibility:

HMS-appointed assistant professors, associate professors, and full professors who meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible to apply for this award:

- (1) They hold a primary appointment in an HMS basic or social science department and their primary job location is on the HMS Quadrangle (including HSCRb faculty whose grants are managed by Harvard).
- (2) They lead major programs based in an HMS basic or social science department.
- (3) They are HMS faculty in the HMS Center for Primary Care, the HPHC-HMS Department of Population Medicine, the HMS Center for Bioethics, the HMS Center for Palliative Care, or the HMS-BWH Osher Center for Integrative Medicine.

Intellectual Property:

In the event any intellectual property is generated by this work, regardless of the location at which the work is performed (whether in facilities of Harvard or of an HMS-affiliated institution):

If any PI or other employee of an HMS-affiliated institution creates intellectual property through work on a project funded by the Dean's Innovation Grants in Health Care Delivery program, the employing institution will own his or her interest in that intellectual property; and

If any PI or other individual employed by or enrolled as a student at Harvard creates intellectual property through work on a project funded by the Dean's Innovation Grants in Health Care Delivery program, Harvard will own his or her interest in that intellectual property.

Time and Effort:

All personnel on funded projects must commit time and effort appropriate to their roles on the project. The Lead PI is expected to budget at least 1% institutional base salary and effort on the award. Faculty who are not permitted to budget salary on applications of this type (e.g., HHMI investigators) should budget effort but not salary.

Allowable Expenses:

Allowable expenses may include PI salary and fringe, research personnel salary and fringe, publication expenses, equipment, supplies, and project-related travel. Funding may be used only for research directly related to and budgeted under the project and may not be used for any other purpose.

Indirect costs required by any HMS-affiliated institution must be budgeted within the award amount (i.e., within the maximum \$80,000 investigator budget) and are capped at a maximum rate of 15% of total direct costs allocated to that institution. No additional funds to cover indirect costs will be provided.

Application Process:

This application is a two-part process. If you are interested and have a new intervention or capacity in mind, please submit a 1-2 page Letter of Interest, including preliminary budget number, to Ariadne Labs. PI's may contact Ariadne Labs to learn more about the platform resources and discuss the types of resources that may best support their projects. The directions and template are below and **Letters of Interest are due by Monday, March 15th at 5pm**. Please email all LOIs and/or any questions to sparkgrants@ariadnelabs.org. Note: a full budget is not required during the LOI stage, however, under the "needs" section of the LOI, please provide a description of resources needed and an estimate of the total project budget. PI's invited to submit a full application will be provided a budget template at that time.

LOIs will be reviewed by a Spark Grant Committee consisting of Ariadne Labs faculty and staff and HMS faculty. Candidates will then be invited by March 29th to submit a formal (5 page) application, which will include a timeline for the work, deliverables, and a budget. The full application is due by Friday, April 30th at 5pm. Final selected candidates will be asked to participate in phone interviews to discuss their applications in early May before grants are awarded. Spark Grant projects will kick-off in August or September of 2021.

More information, including a Word document version of the Letter of Interest template, can be found at <https://www.ariadnelabs.org/spark-grants/>.

Ariadne Labs Platforms:

The **Science & Technology Platform** collaborates with programs to design, test, and spread their interventions globally. The platform consists of a team of experienced biostatisticians, research scientists, and software engineers bring capabilities in data management, study design, qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods approaches, monitoring and evaluation, data visualization, and manuscript and report writing.

The **Innovation Platform** accelerates programs' ability to successfully design, test, and spread interventions by precisely identifying the patient outcomes to change, generating intervention options, collecting rapid-cycle feedback, and iterating on solution design and implementation elements. The platform includes human-centered design, systems engineering, and facilitation experts.

The **Implementation Platform** leads the effective delivery and dissemination of our proven solutions and engages at the beginning of the design and development phase with an eye on effective implementation. The platform consists of a dedicated team of experienced nurses, implementation specialists, physicians, social scientists, and usability experts bring capabilities in strategy, implementation, coaching, community engagement, and knowledge management.

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Letter of Interest

Directions:

Please use the template on the following page for your LOI in order to make our assessment easier. Please limit your LOI response to a total of one to two pages; anything beyond two pages will not be considered except references which may be on a third page. Please note a full budget is not required at this stage. PI's invited to submit a full application will be provided a budget template at that time.

Submit the completed LOI as an attachment to sparkgrants@ariadnelabs.org. Please also use that email for questions regarding the program.

Spark Grant Application Criteria

Ariadne Labs Spark Grant applicants are assessed along four primary criteria. Please consider these criteria as you develop your Spark Grant application and participate in our selection process.

Project Clarity

- Identifiable problem and hypothesis on solution
- Clear sense of where to start
- Logical, high-level project plan
- Metrics to assess progress

Potential Impact

- Aligned with Ariadne Labs' mission
- Scale of patient population
- Near-term and long-term impact
- Potential for paradigm shift in patient care outcomes

Feasibility

- Degree of change needed to improve patient outcome
- Potential for stakeholder support
- Resources required for project
- Potential for additional funding

Leadership

- Depth of problem understanding
- Relevant skills and experience
- Ability to lead and manage project
- Alignment with Ariadne Labs' approach and community

Dean's Innovation Grants in Health Care Delivery Spark Grant LOI Template

Project Title	
Proposed By	
Home Institution & Department	

Problem: What is the major problem in healthcare delivery you plan to address (including patient population that will be affected)?

History: Please include a brief history of your work and how it informs the project you plan to accomplish at Ariadne Labs.

Objectives: How do you plan on using this grant from Ariadne Labs to support your work towards a new intervention or capacity aimed at solving the problem? What will be the final deliverable for the project?

Needs: Please include a preliminary idea of any staff or resources you will need and any that you already have, and an estimate of the total project budget up to a maximum of \$80,000 in total costs to the investigator. If you have preliminary ideas of which Ariadne Labs platforms, resources, or other teams you would like to engage with, please detail those here – this support is included in the \$20,000 direct costs allocated to Ariadne.

Risks/Challenges: What do you foresee as being the biggest obstacle(s) that could affect the outcome or adoption of your objectives?

Additional Information: Is there any additional information that we should know?