

2022 - 2023 ARIADNE LABS SPARK GRANT PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

DATE OF ISSUE: Friday, February 18, 2022

Ariadne Labs is pleased to announce the kick-off of the application process for the Ariadne Labs Spark Grant Program for 2022 - 2023. Ariadne Labs is committed to the pursuit of simple, innovative healthcare solutions that save lives and reduce suffering, and our Spark Grant program is an important generator of new ideas and projects that enable expansion of our mission.

At Ariadne Labs we aim to design for feasibility, usability, desirability, and scale. This grant provides grantees the opportunity to follow principles of our pathway known as the Ariadne Arc. Integrated throughout the design phase of the Arc are Human Centered Design (HCD) methods which ensure that solution development is focused around the needs and desires of end users and target populations. By using HCD methods, we ensure interventions created are practical, scalable, and meet the diverse and expansive needs of many people, rather than only a few.

This year the Ariadne Labs Spark Grant Committee is offering new content area suggestions as well as 3 options for structuring your Spark Grant project. Please read the options carefully to determine which is the best fit for your idea.

ARIADNE LABS SPARK GRANTS:

The goal of the Ariadne Labs Spark Grant program is to support early-stage projects of new *interventions* or new *capacities* for solving major problems in healthcare delivery. Each Spark Grant Project Team is supported in research, design, implementation, and measurement to create a highly skilled, multidisciplinary team that is fully integrated into the structure of Ariadne Labs.

ELIGIBILITY:

Ariadne Labs Core Faculty and Associate Faculty with Harvard University academic appointments are eligible for this grant.

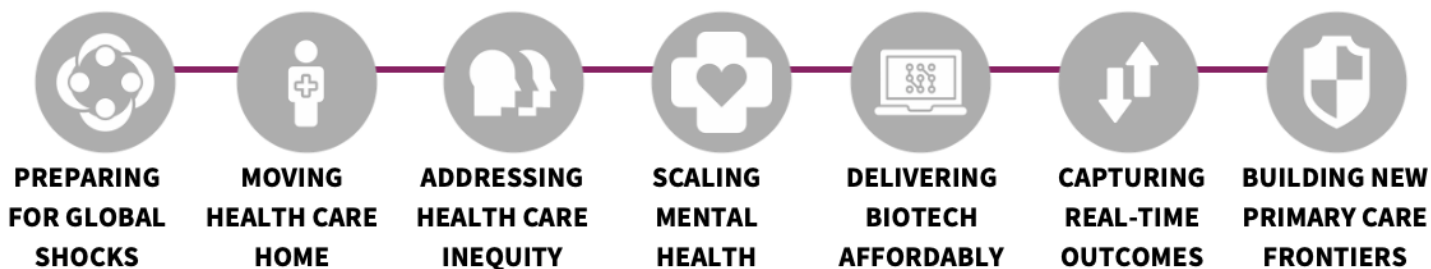
A note for those faculty who are already working with the Lab: this funding opportunity should focus on new inventions in your field or for the organization. (Projects focused on your core work or adjacent to core work [adaptations or additions to the core] should be directed to the internal funding mechanism.)

CONTENT FOCUS:

Historically Ariadne Labs has focused on closing the know-do care delivery gaps for follow through problems -- that is closing the gap between what we know we should do versus what we actually do.

As a part of our strategic plan Ariadne Labs has identified 7 critical unsolved “follow-through” problems and the Spark Grant Committee will give particular attention to proposals in these 7 areas. This year while we will accept investigator initiated topics related to a know do gap, we are particularly interested in ideas related to these 7 areas of need. In addition to these 7 areas of need, priority will be given to applicants focusing on scaling mental health, addressing health care inequity, and moving health care home.

CRITICAL UNSOLVED “FOLLOW-THROUGH” PROBLEMS



PREPARING FOR GLOBAL SHOCKS: Insure preparedness for next health shock including global pandemics such as COVID-19 and environmental and climate health threats.

MOVING HEALTH CARE HOME: Huge potential to achieve better results at lower costs by moving health care home - but we need new protocols and systems to do it for hospital, surgery, and rehab at home.

ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE INEQUITY: Health systems have a mandate to meaningfully narrow disparities. We have the tools to implement them at scale to improve OB, CVD, and cancer outcomes.

SCALING MENTAL HEALTH: Overlapping pandemic, loneliness, & substance use crises create the need for new mental health infrastructure, teams, & virtual care offerings.

DELIVERING BIOTECH AFFORDABLY: Gene therapy and other biologics at millions of \$/person are not scalable. Delivery solutions can make them more affordable, equitable, and available.

CAPTURING REAL-TIME OUTCOMES: Many treatments don't make people better. Spreading patient reported outcome measurement can more precisely tune therapy to people's actual results.

BUILDING NEW PRIMARY CARE FRONTIERS: Better integrating primary care with public health will protect the population's health. Delivering more comprehensive care outside of clinic walls can improve access, outcomes, and costs.

OPTIONS FOR STRUCTURING YOUR PROJECT:

OPTION A. OPPORTUNITY IDENTIFICATION

- Time: 3-6 months (maximum of 6 months)
- Budget: up to \$60,000 of direct costs.
- There are two options for this track:
 - Focus 1: Background Research (Qualitative research, quantitative research, and/or literature/guideline review)
 - Required output: Research Paper with practical implementation or tool development next steps
 - We invite you to submit ideas that will help advance understanding of gaps in healthcare.
 - Key questions to focus on would be:
 - How is this problem affecting quality, cost, experience, and/or equity?
 - What do we know already about existing solutions? Why do we need more research in this area?
 - What questions do we need to answer in order to define a path forward for a solution?
 - Has anyone attempted to solve this problem? If so, what were the results and is the solution scalable?
 - Focus 2: Human-centered design intensive
 - Required Output: Prototype ready for testing
 - We invite you to submit ideas that build on existing know-do gaps in healthcare. In this case we want to see a clear understanding of the problem and opportunity including a hypothesis of a solution for change.
 - This solution can range anywhere from from a data visualization, new workflow, checklist, communication guide, or other innovative tool.
 - Key questions to focus on would be:
 - How is this gap novel, important, and urgent?
 - What do we know about solutions that have been tried?
 - How can it be addressed in a manageable way with a simpler solution or set of innovations?
 - What questions do we need to answer to produce a prototype solution ready for testing?
 - Who are the stakeholders that would use the intervention and what are their motivations?
- Given the timeline and budget, proposals under Option A should not include human subjects research and therefore require institutional review board approval. If you are unsure whether your proposal includes human subjects research consider using [this tool](#) developed by the Harvard Longwood Campus Institutional Review Board.

OPTION B. TEST A SOLUTION WITH PROMISE FOR SCALE AND SPREAD

- Time: Up to one year
- Budget: maximum of \$100,000 of direct costs
- Required output: data indicating usability and feasibility of the solution
- We invite you to submit models for healthcare improvement that have worked on a smaller scale but have promise to expand them to more patients, people, and populations.
 - For this track we will look for existing early pilot data for early evidence of feasibility and utility in one population.
 - This option is for ideas or solutions that are ready to align with Ariadne resources to take a next, bolder step to test their utility.
 - A clear set of outputs and outcomes must be identified, and a methodology for testing must be developed.

The application process for both options consists of two rounds: letter of interest and full application (dates and full process below).

If you are interested please submit a 1-2 page Letter of Interest, including preliminary budget numbers and explicit alignment with Ariadne methodology, to Ariadne Labs. Please also include relevant information about your experience and expertise in this field.

The directions and template are below and due by Friday, March 18, 2022 at 5pm ET. Please email all LOIs to sparkgrants@ariadnelabs.org. The Innovation team is available if you would like to workshop ideas or have any questions. Please reach out to Meg Long at mlong@ariadnelabs.org.

TIMELINE:

Activity	Date
RFP Announced	Friday, February 18, 2022
Letter of Interest Due	Friday, March 18, 2022 at 5pm ET
Full Application Candidates Chosen by	Friday, April 8th, 2022
Full Application Due	Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 5pm ET
Interviews with Director of Community Innovation (Dr. Evan Benjamin)	June 2022
Award Notification	June 2022
Project Kick-off	Thursday, Sept 1, 2022

LOIs will be reviewed by the Ariadne Labs Spark Grant Committee. Selected candidates will then be invited by April 8th to submit a formal (5 page) application, including timeline, deliverables, and budget due Wednesday, May 11th at 5pm ET. Final selected candidates will be asked to participate in phone interviews to discuss their applications in June before grants awarded. Spark Grant projects will kick off in early-Fall of 2022.

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LETTER OF INTEREST

DIRECTIONS:

Please use the template on the following page for your LOI to streamline the process. Please limit your LOI response to 1-2 pages, anything beyond two pages will not be considered. You can remove the section directions but please label the sections.

Submit the completed LOI, as well as any questions, to sparkgrants@ariadnelabs.org.

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.

<p>Project Clarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Identifiable problem and hypothesis on solution● Clear sense of where to start● Logical, high level project plan● Metrics to assess progress	<p>Potential Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Aligned with Ariadne Labs' mission● Scaled of patient population● Near-term and long-term impact● Potential for paradigm shift in patient care outcomes
<p>Feasibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Degree of change needed to improve patient outcome● Potential for stakeholder support● Resources required for project● Potential for additional funding	<p>Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Depth of program understanding● Relevant skills and experience● Ability to lead and manage projects● Alignment with Ariadne Labs' approach and community

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LOI TEMPLATE

Project Title	
Proposed By	
Home Institution	
Option (A1, A2, B)	
Critical Unsolved “Follow Through” Problems Focus	

Problem: What is the major problem in healthcare delivery you plan to address (including patient population that will be affected)? What is the follow through problem or know-do gap?

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 achieving the goal of your project? Consider the focus of the grant you are applying for and how you will deliver on the requested output.

- A-1: Qualitative, quantitative, or background research: Research Paper
- A-2: Human-centered design intensive: Prototype ready for testing
- B: Test a solution with promise for scale and spread: data indicating usability and feasibility of the solution

Alignment: How would this work align with Ariadne Labs' methodology ([Ariadne Arc](#)) and resources ([platforms](#) and [programs](#))? Please see our website (www.ariadnelabs.org, and specific links) for more information on the Arc and the resources available at Ariadne Labs.

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. Please note Spark Grants can only cover salaries up to the NIH cap. (Ariadne Labs Innovation Platform is available to help estimate costs, email sparkgrants@ariadnelabs.org).

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?