

Center for Healthcare Innovation (CHI) Request for Applications for Pilot Awards

Overview

The mission of the Wake Forest **Center for Healthcare Innovation (CHI)** is to collaboratively leverage the unique talents and capabilities of our innovators, digital health tools, scientific discoveries and clinical care delivery system to improve population health, enhance patient experience, reduce costs and improve care provider work life. CHI fulfills its mission through partnerships with like-minded colleagues from the WFSOM and WFBH to identify, develop and implement innovations.

Purpose

The Center for Healthcare Innovation is seeking proposals related to improving the care of pediatric patients through the use of secure text messaging. Mobile technologies including text messaging are the preferred method of communication for many of our patients and families. Over 95% of all adults in the US own a cellphone, and over 75% own or have access to a smartphone. In addition, there is a growing body of evidence about the utility and capabilities of text messaging to improve patient and caregiver outcomes through engagement.

Wake Forest Baptist Health has recently made Twilio®, a HIPAA-compliant text messaging platform, available through a new Digital Communications Core (DComm). DComm oversees use of the platform in research, clinical operations, and Learning Health System interventions. DComm is administered and supported by the Center for Healthcare Innovation (co-sponsored by the Comprehensive Cancer Center). We are interested in projects or initiatives that encourage the use of text messaging to improve clinical outcomes and that build our institutional experience and knowledge base with the technology.

Core Services Offered to award recipient include:

1. Consultations with researchers and clinical operations leaders who are exploring using text messaging with patients or research participants.
2. Review and provide constructive feedback on proposals for using the Twilio® service.
3. Institutional governance for all text messaging use cases across Wake Forest Baptist Health. The DComm Governance Committee includes leaders from Privacy, IT Services, Marketing and Communication, Institutional Review Board, and Clinical Operations. Provision of Twilio® accounts to approved projects.
4. Technical assistance for text messaging projects.

Information regarding projects funded and funding amount

- *1 project will be funded, and the successful pilot will receive up to \$25,000, to be spent within a 12-month period.*
- *6 months of Twilio® services will be provided free of cost; this includes waiving of account setup and maintenance fees, as well as up to 5000 text messages per month. Greater than 5000 messages per month will cost \$0.05 per excess message.*

Successful proposals will adhere to the following:

- Explicit description of how the proposed study embodies learning health system principles (<https://www.ahrq.gov/learning-health-systems/about.html>)
- Outcomes/Objectives of the study will be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound), with at least one measure related to user engagement (e.g., response and actions to text messages)
- Utilization of the Twilio® secure text messaging platform as a part of the intervention. Investigators will use REDCap, linked with Twilio®, as the messaging and data storage platform. The WF CTSI can assist investigators in setting up a REDCap instance and linking to the Twilio® platform.
- Communicate a pathway to further study and funding after the conclusion of the proposed project

Eligibility

- These awards are open to the Department of Pediatrics faculty and staff, as well as other WF investigator/innovators who work with a pediatric population
- Primary focus of the research and study is on a pediatric population

- Use of the secure text messaging must be including in the methods of the proposed project.

Key Dates

Date	Detail
12/16/20, 11:59 pm	Full Application Deadline
February 15, 2021	Selection of Awardees
July 1, 2021	Project Start Date
June 30, 2022	Latest Project End Date

Funding

The **Center of Healthcare Innovation** will fund up to \$25,000 in direct costs per project, with funds to be dispersed in increments pending successful progress and attainment of milestones. See section on Budget Guidelines for more details on allowable and non-allowable budget items.

Application Procedure

Full Application Deadline: 12/16/20, 11:59 pm

The application can be submitted through the [ePilot electronic submission system](#), by the deadline noted above. Application instructions are summarized below.

Format Specifications

- Arial font and no smaller than 11 point
- Margins at least 0.5 inches (sides, top and bottom)
- Single-spaced lines
- Consecutively numbered pages

Submission/Applicant Information

- Project Title
- Submitting Investigator, Co-Investigator(s), and other Key Personnel information

Abstract (500 words max)

Research Plan (5 pages max)

- *Specific Aims*
- *Significance* – Explain how the project addresses an important problem, how it will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability and/or clinical practice.
- *Investigator(s)* – Describe how each member of the team will contribute to the project. Include their expertise and experience that will be utilized on this project.
- *Innovation* – Explain how this project uses novel concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions.
- *Approach* – Describe the overall strategy for this project, including potential problems, alternative strategies and benchmarks for success.
- *Projected Timeline*

References (no page limit)

Information Regarding Human Subjects

Address the following if the project **involves human subjects**.

- Provide a one-page document addressing the Protection of Human Subjects, if applicable.
- IRB Approval Status (please note: IRB approval is not required for full application submission, however **a delay in IRB approval does not alter the project end date**) Pre submission discussion with the Wake Forest IRB is strongly suggested.
- In addition to IRB approval, all applications must be approved by DComm for use of the Twilio® platform, to ensure compliance with regulations and WFBH best practices. Approval by DComm will need to occur prior to initiation of the project. DComm meets monthly.

Information Regarding Live Vertebrates if applicable.

- IACUC Approval Status (please note: IACUC approval is not required for full application submission, however **a delay in IACUC approval does not alter the project end date**)

Budget and Justification (budget template plus 1-page justification)

- Complete the [budget template form](#) provided along with a brief justification for the funds requested for this RFA. Please include explanation of other resources that may be leveraged to support the project.
- Sub-awards to other institutions to carry out work on a project are not allowed.

NIH-style biographical sketch for all Key Personnel (new style)

Budget Guidelines

The budget period is for 12 months, ending no later than June 30, 2022. Up to \$ 25,000 in direct costs may be requested.

Grant funds may be budgeted for:

- Research support personnel (including undergraduate and graduate students)
- Travel necessary to perform the research
- Small equipment, research supplies and core lab costs, or
- Other purposes deemed necessary for the successful execution of the proposed project

Grant funds may **not** be budgeted for:

- Office supplies or communication costs, including printing
- Meals or travel, including to conferences, except as required to collect data
- Professional education or training
- Computers or audiovisual equipment, unless fully justified as a need for the research
- Manuscript preparation and submission, or
- Indirect costs

Awarded funds must be used to conduct the work proposed. All direct charges to this award must adhere to federal regulations and requirements regarding the use of Center for Healthcare Innovation funds. The Center for Healthcare Innovation leadership reserves the right to revoke funding in the event it is determined that funds were not spent in accordance with the approved protocol. The general criteria for determining allowable direct costs on federally sponsored projects is set forth in 2 CFR Part 200: Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (The Uniform Guidance).

Review Criteria and Process

Proposals will be evaluated by the Center for Healthcare's Innovation Project Governance Committee. Funding decisions will be made based on the reviews of an evaluation of the projects' connection with the goals of the Center for Healthcare Innovation. Final award approval will be at the recommendation of Center for Healthcare Innovation Leadership. Any IACUC and/or IRB protocols must be approved prior to funding of the approved pilot.

Reviewers will score applications from 1 to 9 based on:

1. Significance of the problem to be addressed;
2. Innovation in the proposed solutions;
3. Strength and breadth of the investigative team;
4. Methodological rigor and feasibility with clear milestones;
5. Likelihood the innovation will be broadly applicable and have impact on translational research, and;
6. A reporting plan regardless of whether the study yields positive or negative results;
7. Other elements to be considered in the review include: the likelihood that the investment will lead to external funding or a licensable innovation, early-career faculty involvement, race/gender inclusiveness of the research team and inclusion of women, minorities, older adults and children as potential participants.

Program Expectations

Should any significant issues arise, the study team will be required to work with the Center for Healthcare Innovation Director to define an intervention strategy for the study to be successfully completed (or in rare cases, terminated).

Specific Deliverables Include:

- Every other month updates with CHI staff, starting with a kickoff meeting at the initiation of the project
- Brief final report 1 month after the end of the project date (template will be provided)
- Reports of any academic productivity during or after the project period (i.e., presentations, publications, further funding)

Other Guidelines

1. Prior to receiving funds, research involving human subjects must have appropriate approvals from the IRB. Either an IRB approval letter or an IRB response to a “Determination Whether Research or Similar Activities Require IRB Approval” must be submitted to the Center for Healthcare Innovation prior to funds being released. Human subjects must be reviewed in accordance with the institution’s general assurances and HIPAA. All key personnel must have certification of training in the protection of human subjects prior to the start of the grant period.
2. It is expected the PI will report outcomes achieved due to the pilot award, e.g., subsequent external funding, publications, presentations and patents.
3. Any awardee who leaves his or her position should contact the Center for Healthcare Innovation Director to discuss future plans for the project.

Grant Administration

The Principal Investigator is responsible for the administration of grant funds. Projects will be for a 12-month period of time.

Contacts

Center for Healthcare Innovation

Email: Renee Woodard (Renee.woodard@wakehealth.edu) or Scott Lang (slang@wakehealth.edu)

Questions about your research project or the ePilot electronic submission system should be directed to Brittney Jackson, britjack@wakehealth.edu.