
Request for Proposals: Feasibility Grants to Advance Graduate Medical Education in California

RFP released	October 28, 2020
Responses due	December 15, 2020
Initial awards announced	February 2, 2021
Award	\$25,000 – \$40,000

Executive Summary

We are issuing a request for proposals (RFP) for hospitals interested in using small grants to explore the feasibility of beginning graduate medical education (GME) programs.

About Mathematica

Mathematica collaborates with public- and private-sector changemakers by working at the intersection of data, methods, policy, and practice to accomplish our mission: improving public well-being. Our services include research and evaluation, program design and improvement, and data analytics. Mathematica is helping create a world in which evidence routinely drives public policy and program decisions. For more information, visit <https://www.mathematica.org/>.

Overview

California has a shortage of physicians—especially primary care physicians and psychiatrists—to care for its large, diverse, and growing population. To ensure the future stability and capacity of the health care system, the California Future Health Workforce Commission recommended an expansion of GME to increase the number of California-trained physicians, especially in needed specialties and underserved regions of the state.

Mathematica is working with philanthropic foundations to accelerate GME expansion efforts across California. In addition to working to establish a permanent GME governance council for the state of California, Mathematica coordinates with GME experts and leaders at the state and national level and produces resources, such as toolkits, case studies, and small grants, for hospitals exploring the feasibility of establishing new residency programs. Through this RFP Mathematica is overseeing a grant program for hospitals interested in exploring the feasibility of starting a GME program within its institution.

Eligible hospitals include those in the state of California that have never before sponsored GME, also known as GME-naïve hospitals. To successful applicants, Mathematica plans to award feasibility study grants in the range of \$25,000 to \$40,000 over nine months. Hospitals are required to match 25 percent of the awarded funds. These grants are intended to be large enough to encourage hospitals to engage in internal discussions about GME and to hire a consultant for a high-level assessment of feasibility. Because a goal of this work is to stimulate and incentivize,

there is no requirement that applicants actually establish residency programs—only that they explore the opportunity. Hospitals can use the grants to fund relevant activities, such as:

- Assessing whether the hospital can meet guidelines of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and, if not, identify specific gaps and create an action plan (for example, call rooms, medical libraries, general displays of specialists required)
- Examining the hospital’s basic finances to understand viability and investment needs in early years
- Verifying with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that the hospital has not triggered a Medicare GME funding cap at some earlier time
- Ensuring buy-in from department heads
- Identifying a physician champion to lead the GME effort
- Identifying areas in which out rotations might be required and investigating potential partnership opportunities

Eligible applicants

This RFP is open to California hospitals that have never sponsored graduate medical education but that are interested in exploring the possibility of doing so or hospitals that are just beginning GME and have not yet triggered their Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services cap. Hospitals will receive priority if they are addressing the needs of underrepresented populations or geographic areas. Hospitals interested in starting programs in multiple specialties will also receive consideration.

Response submission

Responses should be delivered by email as two files (a PDF and a Word document) to Amanda Lechner (Alechner@mathematica-mpr.com) no later than 5:00 p.m. (PT) on December 15, 2020.

Proposal requirements

Please briefly address the following questions in no more than three pages:

- a. Why is your hospital interested in exploring the feasibility of adding GME?
- b. How would a feasibility grant help your hospital explore the possibility of adding GME?
- c. How much money are you requesting?
- d. What would be the ideal start date of your feasibility grant?
- e. What specialty programs are you interested in exploring?

Additional proposal materials

The following required materials do not count toward the three-page limit:

- a. A brief bio-sketch or CV for all key team members
- b. A brief explanation of how you plan to allocate the budget across proposed activities
- c. A letter in support from the hospital CEO

Deliverable and timeline

Award recipients must submit a final narrative report of about five pages. The report will be due 10 months after award. Key questions to be addressed in the report include the following:

- a. What did you learn?
- b. Will you go forward with starting a GME program?
 - If so, please briefly describe your next steps, your timeline for implementing the GME program, and the specialties you will include.
 - If not, why not?
- c. What resources do you need to go forward with adopting a GME program?
- d. How did your hospital spend the money?

For more information

For questions about the project or proposal submission process, contact Amanda Lechner, health researcher, at alechner@mathematica-mpr.com.