



L.S. Skaggs Institute for Health Innovation (SIHI) Innovation Fund Request for Proposals

Proposal due date: May 1, 2024

Selection announcement date: June 15, 2024

Source of funding: [L.S. Skaggs Institute for Health Innovation \(SIHI\)](#)

Funding range: \$5,000-\$25,000 based on tiered funding categories described below

Period of performance: 07/01/2024-06/30/2025 with opportunities for a no-cost extension

Total funds available: \$100,000

Point of contact for questions regarding this application: sihi@umontana.edu

Overview

SIHI's mission is to be a statewide hub for health education, research, and outreach to improve access to emerging health innovations for underserved populations. SIHI is pleased to offer a funding opportunity for proposals that further its mission. The SIHI Innovation Fund is designed to be a catalyst for new programmatic concepts or to fund expansion of existing programs that align with SIHI's mission. This is a one-year funding opportunity; funded projects should have a high likelihood of leading to external funding.

Eligibility

This funding opportunity is exclusively available to University of Montana faculty, staff, and trainees. To be considered eligible, proposals must align with SIHI's mission and include a collaboration with pharmacy and/or pharmaceutical sciences. Proposals must meet one or more of the following SIHI objectives and preference will be given to projects that meet multiple objectives. Proposals that provide educational and research opportunities for trainees (e.g., undergraduate/pharmacy/graduate students and postdoctoral fellows) are highly encouraged.

- Establish models of interprofessional training and provision of care to rural, tribal, and underserved settings through clinical/experiential opportunities to students in the health professions.
- Enhance outreach programs focused on community engagement and community-driven solutions to improving health.
- Support and develop partnerships with communities, clinics and healthcare systems, clinical specialists, researchers and research institutions, and health initiatives across the state to establish innovative models to improve access to and quality of care.
- Expand research that addresses unmet medical needs and health disparities for rural, tribal, and underserved communities through new partnerships and extramural funding.
- Create sustainable models for SIHI's clinical services through the development of revenues from billing and reimbursement, and contracts from health systems or government agencies.

Funding Categories

- **Planning Project**
Funded at \$5,000-\$10,000 direct costs, this category is intended to support new projects and frameworks that have potential for future external funding. Project leaders that have a concept in development, but need time to cultivate new partnerships or generate preliminary data / proof-of-concept to lay the foundation for a future project should apply for this category.

- **Pilot Project**
Funded at >\$10,000 up to \$25,000 direct costs, this category should stimulate existing projects or collaborations that are closer to applying for external funding. Project leaders that have established partnerships or preliminary data / proof-of-concept (but insufficient to be competitive for external funding), should apply for this category.
- SIHI will consider additional projects that closely align with SIHI's mission outside of these funding categories on a case-by-case basis. Email sihi@umontana.edu with specific questions..

Deliverables & Expectations

- Midterm report detailing project progress with SIHI leadership
- Final written report at the end of the grant term
- Plan to seek external funding to provide further support for the project
- Future submission of external funding proposals through SIHI
- Cite the "University of Montana L.S. Skaggs Institute for Health Innovation" in any publications and presentations resulting from the SIHI Innovation Fund
- Funded projects should plan to assist with relevant grant applications or other funding efforts if related to your work

Proposal Format

- Proposals should not exceed 4 pages (excluding biosketches); follow [NIH style guidelines](#) (e.g., at least one-half inch margins; font size 11 points or larger; recommended fonts: Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype); and should contain the following elements:
 - Specific Aims (up to ½ page)
 - Approach (up to 1 ½ page)
 - Description of how the project aligns with SIHI's mission and objectives (up to ½ page)
 - Description of anticipated or identified external funding pathways capable of sustaining the project after the grant period (up to ½ page)
 - Budget (up to 1 page, template provided)
 - Biosketch for Project Leader(s) using [NIH Biosketch Format](#) (Note: trainees should submit a Fellowship Biosketch; all others should submit a Non-Fellowship Biosketch)
- Proposals should be submitted via email to sihi@umontana.edu. Applications should be submitted as a single pdf document.
- To be competitive, proposals should follow the proposal format while taking into consideration the scoring selection criteria provided below.

Selection Criteria

A standardized scoring rubric will be used to select funded applications based on the following criteria:

- Innovation
- Approach
- Alignment with SIHI's mission and objectives
- Collaboration with pharmacy and/or pharmaceutical sciences
- Potential to secure external funding
- Additional considerations
 - Educational and research opportunities for trainees
 - Potential to expand SIHI collaborations and partnerships

Allowed Expenses

Direct expenses are allowed. Facilities and Administration (F&A) Costs are not allowed. Travel expenses are allowed, including expenses for conducting outreach as part of the project. Meetings and training are allowed if related to achieving proposal outcomes.