

PTEC Health Inequities Research Grant Program: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is PTEC?

A: The Preparedness and Treatment Equity Coalition (PTEC) is committed to developing methods for the collection and use of data in support of efforts to decrease health inequity in the U.S. healthcare system. Novel approaches and inspired collaborations are necessary to identify ways to measure and reward more equitable health outcomes. PTEC is particularly focused on solutions for vaccine equity and conditions that disproportionately affect racialized communities (Black, Latinx, Asian, and Native American), such as cardiovascular disease and metabolic disorders.

PTEC brings together multi-sector stakeholders to narrow the disparities in pandemic preparedness, morbidity, and mortality through more effective use of diagnostic tests, vaccines and medicines and supportive care addressing underlying infectious, cardiovascular, and metabolic risk factors. The coalition is focused on developing evidence to guide health system delivery and payment reforms in partnership with data partners including IQVIA and Milliman as well as AcademyHealth. More equitable access will reduce pandemic associated death and devastation for Black, Latinx, Asian, and Native American communities and the underlying conditions that make this pandemic even more deadly in these communities.

Q: What is the health equity grant program?

A: This call for proposals (CFP) will provide grant support for research studies that **harness the power of data to identify metrics, outcome measures, or payment models that can be used to encourage practices that decrease inequity in the healthcare system**. Research supported by this CFP is not intended to be merely descriptive, but to identify **inequitable practices or outcomes and propose a data-driven solution**. Click [here](#) to learn more about the grant program and read example research projects.

Q: What are the proposal requirements?

A: Proposals should examine **systemic racism** as a cause of inequity in the United States healthcare system, and focus on **cardiovascular disease, metabolic disease, or vaccination**. We strongly encourage proposals that also examine intersectional characteristics that increase health inequity including **age, disability, or LGBTQ+ identities**. Proposals may include research on other disease states as long as they demonstrate a connection to cardiovascular disease, metabolic disease, or vaccination.

Applicants must be (1) Based in United States or U.S. territories; (2) research teams comprised of research institutions (academic or nonacademic), healthcare providers, and/or community-based partners. Research teams from multiple organizations must designate a primary applicant responsible for grant stewardship. Awards will not be granted to individual researchers; and (3) examine health inequity within the United States healthcare system. Projects proposing independent or comparative study of other healthcare systems are excluded.

Click [here](#) to read about selection criteria.

Q: What is the length of project?

A: There is no specified length for the project period; however, given the funding amounts, we expect projects to be less than one year in length. There may be potential to extend support from our data

partners after the specified project period. This will be determined by PTEC's data partners, IQVIA and Milliman, on a case-by-case basis.

Q: How do I apply?

A: Email your submission to ptecmail@academyhealth.org with the subject line "PTEC Brief Proposal Submission" by 5 p.m. EST on July 16, 2021.

Brief proposals should include the following:

- 2-page concept proposal, single-spaced, size 12 font (maximum)
- Consisting of Summary, Specific Aims, and Research Strategy
- Please include cover page with Proposal Title, Names, Affiliations (not part of page limit)
- Please include biography page with 1 paragraph bios of key personnel (not part of page limit)

Q: If my proposal is selected, what resources will I have access to?

A: A total of six proposals will be selected. Three selected research teams will receive \$50,000 to support project-related costs, and access to the services of data partners. The other three selected research teams will receive no-cost access to services of data partners, with no direct financial support for project related costs.

PTEC's data partners, IQVIA and Milliman, will work with awardees to support their research requirements. Awardees will receive no-cost support from our data partners, IQVIA and Milliman.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the available data (information on data sources is listed in the document appendix).

Q: How is data shared from each data partner?

A: Researchers collaborating with Milliman as a data partner will have access to in-house analysts. Researchers will not have direct access to Milliman databases.

IQVIA will provision data directly to the research teams. Awardees will not have direct access to the IQVIA platforms themselves.

Q: Do I have to use the Milliman or IQVIA data in my proposal or can I use other data sources as well?

A: Researchers are welcome to use any data sources that they deem appropriate for their objectives. Although support from our data partners, IQVIA and Milliman will be available to awardees, awardees are not required to use them.

Q: What geographic level of data is available in each data resource?

A: IQVIA Real World Data via 360 are available at the provider state and five-digit zip code level. IQVIA National Data via SMART are projected to a national total and aggregated at the national level.

Geographic granularity of the data varies amongst the Milliman databases and whether the focus is on where members reside or where the provider is located. The Medicare data, which is the only database Milliman has access to with race and ethnicity information, contains geographic indicators at the 3-digit zip-code level for both members and providers. The large commercial databases Milliman has access to

(which do not have race and ethnicity information) contain MSA level data for members but no geographic information at the provider level.

Q: Is race/ethnicity data available?

A: Race/ethnicity data is not available through IQVIA data.

For Milliman, race/ethnicity data is a beneficiary variable in the Medicare 100% Innovator Research data and the Medicare 5% Sample data; however, it is not included in the other three databases.

Q: What date ranges of data available?

A: IQVIA Prescription Claims (LRx) data lags by one month while IQVIA Medical Claims (Dx) data lags by 2-3 months, on average. Additionally, IQVIA has the ability to send data dating back 5-10 years to allow research teams to establish a baseline. National data via SMART is updated monthly and contains a rolling 72 months of data.

The databases Milliman has access to contain several years of longitudinal data. Across the datasets, the most recent year of complete data available is 2019 .

More questions? Contact ptecmail@academyhealth.org.