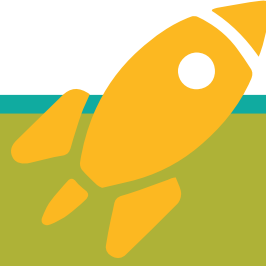




BATON ROUGE Health-Tech Catalyst



2022 Launchpad // Innovation Pilot Awards

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

THE BATON ROUGE HEALTH-TECH CATALYST, a Baton Rouge Health District project funded by the EDA Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship - Build to Scale Program, announces the **LAUNCHPAD** innovation pilot grant funding opportunity.

THE GOAL OF THE LAUNCHPAD GRANTS:

To foster innovation and collaboration between Health District members.

PRIMARY APPLICANTS: Health District member institution investigators, providers, and employees.

OBJECTIVES: Applications should contain objectives which further the mission of the Baton Rouge Health District to join forces to create

a culture of health and make Baton Rouge a destination for healthcare at the heart of a healthy and vibrant community.

AWARDS: Multiple awards of up to \$30,000 each are anticipated.

This Request for Proposals solicits submissions for the Inaugural round of the Launchpad awards for innovation pilot awards.

LAUNCHPAD TIMELINE

ISSUED: January 31, 2022

LETTERS OF INTENT DUE:
March 12, 2022, at 5:00 PM

**APPLICANT INFORMATION
WEBINAR:** February, 2022

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED:
Anticipated late March 2022

**FINALISTS PRESENT
TO PANEL:** April 2022

AWARDS ANNOUNCED:
May 2022

**PROJECT COMMENCEMENT
DATE:** Anticipated before
August 1, 2022

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT:** Baton Rouge Health District
brhealthdistrict.com/launchpad

**FOR QUESTIONS AND
SUBMISSIONS, PLEASE
CONTACT:**
launchpad@brhealthdistrict.com

ABOUT THE HEALTH-TECH CATALYST AND LAUNCHPAD



With funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Build to Scale Venture Challenge program, the Baton Rouge Health District recently established the Baton Rouge Health-Tech Catalyst in collaboration with the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) and Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

The goal of this project is to promote and support collaboration between Health District member institutions while sparking innovation between Baton Rouge Health District anchor institutions, technology and community innovators, and industry leaders.

This initiative will create a launchpad to strengthen innovation in the Baton Rouge Health District by maximizing local talent and supporting collaborative innovation engagements with the potential to take the next step toward positively impacting health outcomes through the cohesive and collaborative Baton Rouge Health District.

The Health-Tech Catalyst establishes three complementary program tracks including:

- 1. LAUNCHPAD:** innovation pilot grant awards to support applicant-driven proposals that promote collaboration and advance Health District priorities;
- 2. INNOVATION CHALLENGES:** focus on a strategic opportunity topic to attract and accelerate partnerships to systematically grow innovation capacity within predetermined areas of need;
- 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** coordinated marketing and development to continue to build awareness and prominence of the regional healthcare and life science innovation cluster.





HEALTH DISTRICT PRIORITIES

The inaugural 2022 Launchpad round of innovation pilot awards establishes the innovation pilot award grant program as one of three tracks of the Health Tech Catalyst project.

The Launchpad will support collaborative proposals for novel approaches to further the Health District priorities of:

HEALTHY PLACE: to be a vibrant and accessible destination that promotes healthy living beyond the hospital walls.

HEALTH EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE: to be a center for advanced education, clinical practice, and workforce development in healthcare.

HEALTH INNOVATION AND RESEARCH: provide a platform for innovation and research partnerships that improve health outcomes and contribute to care advancement through technology adoption and development.

HEALTHCARE COALITION: to be a model for resource coordination to facilitate patient-centric, value-driven care.

AREAS OF INTEREST

A wide spectrum of projects will be considered for funding. Proposals can include basic, translational, epidemiological, infrastructure, health outcomes, data analytics, workforce training, education and career opportunities, piloting new technologies, or digital health interventions. Projects with well-developed concepts where additional data are required for proposal submission and/or where innovative ideas or technologies require additional testing before scale-up will also be considered. Projects that align with Health District priorities (as listed above) are of particular interest.

Example topics of interest include: new models of care, digital health, device development, advanced statistical research, novel talent engagement and workforce development, mobility and access to care innovations.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applications will be accepted from lead applicants that are employees of the Baton Rouge Health District member institutions or any of its owned affiliates. Eligible member institutions include Baton Rouge General Medical Center, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Ochsner Health, Woman's Hospital, Pennington Biomedical Research Center at Louisiana State University, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana, and Baton Rouge Area Foundation.
- Strong preference will be given to those proposals with a collaborative element, either comprising co-applicants across Health District member institutions or between Health District members and external academic and commercial partners.
- Inclusion and integration of other Baton Rouge Health District researchers/clinicians and community or commercial partners/stakeholders is highly encouraged and will be a key consideration in project funding decisions.
- There is a particular interest in proposals that may leverage results from the pilot awards, either in facilitating future external funding opportunities or contributing to milestones that may lead to further implementation or scale-up. All projects should have clearly described next steps in terms of future opportunities.
- Preference will be given to applications that propose projects that

(1) address a well-documented health concern or problem, (2) have practical implications for patient care, health services delivery, or the broadly interpreted environment of care (3) have potential for application and future growth/development by leveraging Health District assets or anchor resources, and (4) can be completed in one year.

PARAMETERS FOR APPLICATION

- Lead applicant must be an employee from a Baton Rouge Health District member institution or any of its owned affiliates
- Members of the Health-Tech Catalyst steering or advisory committees may not serve as the lead applicant on a Launchpad innovation award application
- Translational research projects must have a lead applicant (PI or co-PI) who is a faculty member or employee at a Health District member institution with an appointment that allows them to serve as PI on an externally sponsored research project.
- Faculty or employees from non-Health District member institutions (e.g., healthcare organizations, education institutions, or industry partners) are encouraged to participate as co-applicants but may not apply as lead applicants.
- There is no limit to the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution, division, department or individual.
- The lead applicant must obtain a letter of support from someone with the appropriate signature authority within the Health District member organization that will host the Innovation Pilot award if funded (likely the lead applicant employer). This letter of support must be included with the letter of intent.
- Project must be limited to one year in scope with a start date no later than August 1, 2022.
- Project activities may be submitted to other funding agencies/sources for consideration, but a LAUNCHPAD award from the Health-Tech Catalyst may only be accepted if proposed activities are not already funded elsewhere. Launchpad awards are anticipated as seed funding to open new lines of investigation, collaborations, and possible proof-of-concept that may promote future funding and/or development opportunities consistent with the Health District goals.



PROCESS

PHASE 1: Interested parties should submit a letter of intent (outlined below) in a single PDF. Please submit the letter of intent electronically to launchpad@brhealthdistrict.com by March 12, 2022, at 5:00pm. Late letters of intent will not be accepted.

PHASE 2: Invited finalists will be selected based on their letter of intent and will pitch and present their pilot proposals at an Innovation Forum event in April 2022. A presentation template will be provided to selected finalists.

Workshops, pitch clinics, and technical assistance on writing demo funding applications and presenting in a pitch format will be available through the Health-Tech Catalyst technical assistance team. Specific information and dates for pitch clinics will be disseminated to applicants. Please contact launchpad@brhealthdistrict.com for more information and technical assistance.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The proposals will be scored by external reviewers with subject matter expertise to received proposals and no direct conflict to the anchor institutions. They will evaluate the technical and innovation merits of each application. Reviewers will rate proposals on a 1-9 rating scale based on:

- Anticipated meaningful outcomes / significance of the work
- Novelty / innovation of the idea or proposed solution
- Soundness of the proposed approach / methods
- Feasibility of accomplishing the stated project goals within the one-year project period
- Degree of alignment with the mission of the Health-Tech Catalyst and the Health District priorities.

AWARD DETAILS

Funding will be awarded from the EDA B2S Health-Tech Catalyst project, through a combination of federal grant and local matching funds. All questions regarding the awarding of funding should be directed to the contact listed in the notice of award. Prior to the awarding of funding, the following information must be provided, if applicable:

- Institutional Review Board approvals, if applicable, must be obtained prior to receipt of an award, but are not required to submit an application. Prior to receipt of an award involving human subjects, IRB approval from all participating sites and human subjects training certification for all key personnel will be required.
- Awardees will be required to submit quarterly progress reports to the contact listed in the notice of award.
- If for any reason the awardee is unable to fulfill the requirements of adhere to the policies of the award, at the discretion of the funding mechanism leadership, the award may be revoked.
- All unspent funds must be returned to the funding mechanism leadership.

HOW TO APPLY

PHASE 1: The letter of intent package must be emailed in .pdf format to launchpad@brhealthdistrict.com. The package must include two (2) pdfs:

1. Letter of intent less than 2 pages in length in a single pdf and including:

- Abstract (<500 words) with the following suggested components: Background, Significance, Design, and anticipated impact. References may be included as an attachment but are not required.
- Innovation Relevance: Please include 1-3 sentences describing how this project would contribute to innovation within the health-District and further any of the above-stated objectives.
- Budget Synopsis: Please include an itemized summary of the anticipated usage of the funds
- Abbreviated bio-sketches / staffing plan are allowed as an attachment (not to exceed 1 additional page beyond 2-page limit)

2. Letter of support from the appropriate signatory authority within the host Health District member organization to house the Innovation Pilot award if funded.

- Can include the direct supervisor of the lead applicant or an authorized signatory for the institution.
- If the proposal requires a commitment of time from staff or other resources outside of applicant's department/division/unit or organization, please also include a letter of support for use of resources from the appropriate collaborators or partners.

BUDGET AND USE OF FUNDS

Maximum direct costs allowed for proposal are \$30,000. Indirect costs are not allowed. Awards are one year in length. Funding restrictions include:

- Awards may be used to pay salary and benefit expense for staff and direct project personnel, as well as to fund other direct project-related expenses (e.g., equipment, software, materials) as outlined in the project's budget and approved by the Health-Tech Catalyst.
- No indirect costs or overhead charges will be allowed
- Funds will not be released until completion of IRB approval or waiver, as appropriate
- Funding will only be provided for actual expenditures up to the amount of the award

AWARD ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING

- Award recipients will be required to invoice for actual expenses incurred during the one-year project.
- Award recipients will be required to submit periodic progress reports
- Awardees will be required to present progress and/or final results as part of anticipated innovation forum events.