



AIM-AHEAD Hub-Specific Pilot Projects

Application Preparation Webinar
May 23, 2025

- **Introduction of AIM-AHEAD**
- **Introduction of the Hub-Specific Pilot Project program**
 - **(Goals, Objectives, Expected Outcomes)**
- **Eligibility**
- **Application Requirements**
- **Review criteria**
- **Deadlines (submission, review, selection, and program start)**
- **Q & A session**



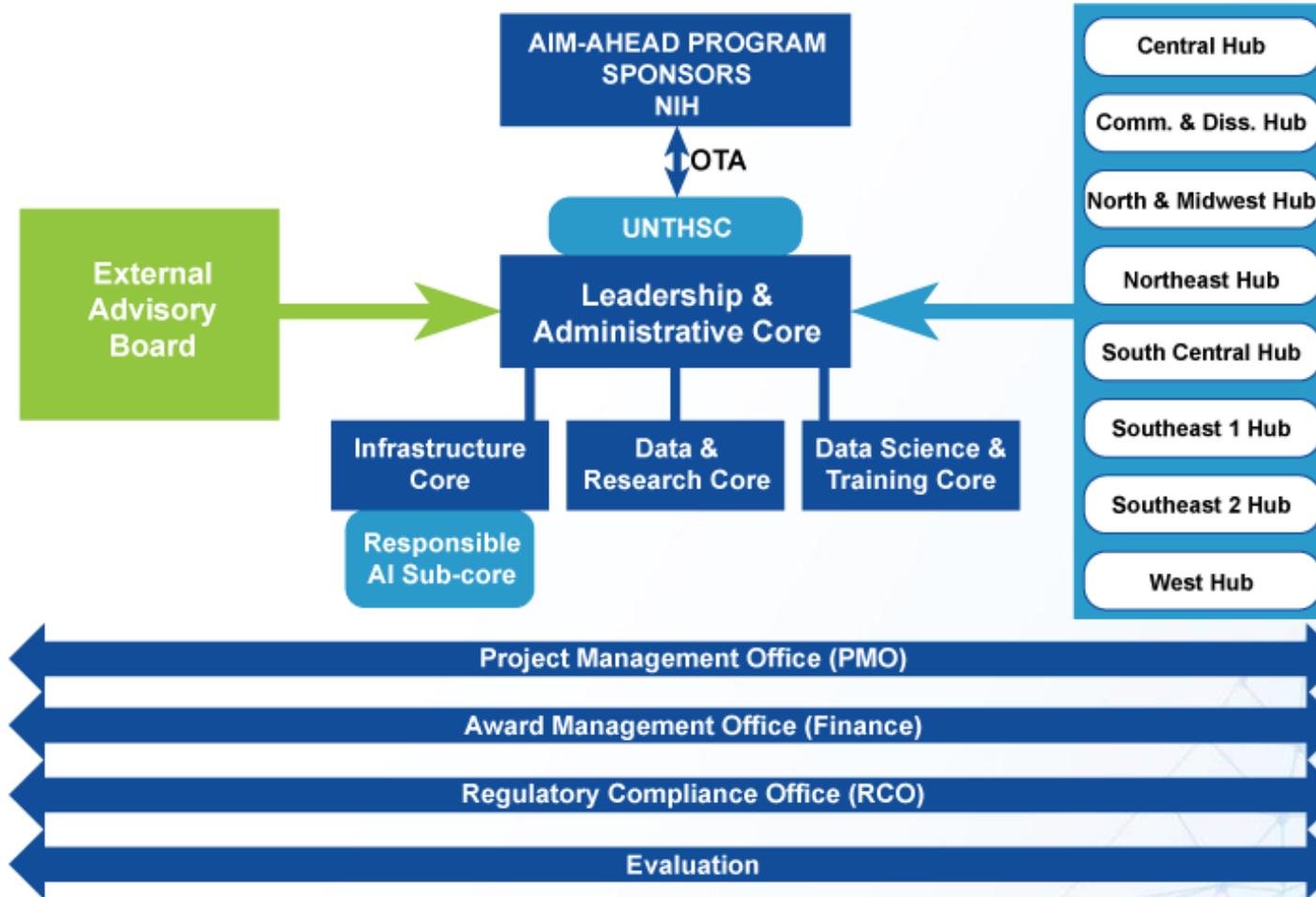
Funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), AIM-AHEAD aims to support researchers and communities to extend the benefits of artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) to all Americans.

Overall Organization



AIM-AHEAD Consortium Governance Framework

Overall Organization



Hub Leaders (MPIs)

- South: Bettina M. Beech, PhD.
- Northeast: Roland Thorpe, Dr.P.H.
- Southeast-Meharry: Anil Sankar, Ph.D.
- Southeast-Morehouse: Herman Taylor, M.D.
- West: Alejandra Casillas, M.D. and Keith Norris, MD., PhD. and
- Midwest: Evelinn Borrayo, Ph.D. and Spero Manson, Ph.D.
- South Central: Jamboor Vishwanatha Ph.D., Usha Sambamoorthi Ph.D., Harlan Jones, Ph.D.
- Communications and Dissemination: Toufeeq Ahmed, Ph.D.

Join AIM-AHEAD Connect



- AIM-AHEAD's community, networking, mentoring and career-development platform
- Virtual space to engage with the entire AIM-AHEAD Consortium and build Community!
- Custom tools available to the AIM-AHEAD Coordinating Center:
 - Connect with experts, learners, stakeholders etc.
 - Mentoring, Q&A, Video calls, Groups, Jobs Board, etc.
 - Sign-up: Event registration & information solicitation
 - Surveys: Request feedback for various activities
 - HelpDesk: Respond to topic-specific questions
 - Programs: Exclusive space, content, and mentor matching

Scan QR Code
to Join
AIM-AHEAD Connect



Consistent with NIH practice and applicable law, funded programs may not use the race, ethnicity, or sex of prospective program participants or faculty as an eligibility or selection criteria. The race, ethnicity, or sex of candidates will not be considered by AIM-AHEAD in the application review process or when making funding decisions.



Hub-Specific Pilot Program Call For Proposal

Year 4 HSP Goal



The overall goal of the AIM-AHEAD Hub-Specific Projects is to advance community-based participatory research (CBPR), where community organizations and stakeholders are actively engaged in research using AI/ML to address and improve health outcomes. This funding opportunity will support small-scale research projects co-led by leaders of community-based organizations and researchers from academic institutions.

HSP Objectives



- Support research teams that prioritize community stakeholders' engagement to address chronic diseases or health conditions throughout the development of AI/ML methods.
- Facilitate direct interaction between key stakeholder teams, AIM-AHEAD hubs, and AIM-AHEAD technical cores.
- Utilize CBPR approaches to advance AI/ML-related capacity building opportunities for communities across the US.
- Enhance community stakeholder understanding of and familiarity with AI/ML analytic methods.
- Build capacity for community stakeholders (e.g., improve electronic health record (EHR) data) to engage in AI/ML research with teams experienced using AI/ML methods.



Hub-Specific Projects must be aligned with one or more of the AIM-AHEAD North Stars:

North Star 1: Develop a representative AI/ML workforce with broad participation.

North Star 2: Increase knowledge, awareness and national-scale community engagement and empowerment in AI/ML.

North Star 3: Use AI/ML to improve behavioral health, cardiometabolic health and cancer outcomes for all.

North Star 4: Build community capacity and infrastructure in AI/ML to address community-centric health challenges.

Expected Outcomes and Impact of the Program

Funding for these small-scale projects is expected to establish and facilitate sustainable efforts that will enhance community leadership in AI/ML research, accelerate the dissemination of study findings to community stakeholders, and generate preliminary data to enhance the competitiveness of future larger-scale community-engaged NIH grant applications for AI/ML research applications.

Example Areas of Interest



- Human-centered and/or value-sensitive design of AI/ML
- Multidisciplinary approaches to the creation and application of AI/ML
- Community engagement
- Access to data, algorithms, and software
- Algorithmic fairness
- Privacy, security, and trust
- Legal issues where appropriate



Eligibility and Expectations

Higher Education Institutions

- Public/State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- Private Institutions of Higher Education

Nonprofits Other Than Institutions of Higher Education

- Nonprofits with 501 (c)(3) IRS Status
- Nonprofits without 501 (c)(3) IRS Status

For-Profit Organizations

- Small Businesses
- For-Profit Organizations (Other than Small Businesses)

Local Governments

- State Governments
- County Governments
- City or Township governments
- Special District Governments
- Indian/Native American Tribal Governments (Federally Recognized)
- Indian/Native American Tribal Governments (Other than Federally Recognized)

Other

- Independent School Districts
- Public Housing Authorities/Indian Housing Authorities
- Native American Tribal Organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Faith-based or Community-based Organizations
- Regional Organizations

To be eligible for this CFP, the applicant institution **must be a domestic institution located in the United States and its territories.**

- Before applying, these organizations **MUST** be registered with System for Award Management (SAM), see <https://sam.gov/content/home>, and must maintain active SAM registration throughout the award period.

Foreign Institutions

- Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Institutions) **are not** eligible to apply
- Non-domestic (non-U.S.) components of U.S. Organizations **are not** eligible to apply
- Foreign components, as defined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement, **are not** allowed to apply



AIM-AHEAD CFP multi-award considerations

Individuals may **NOT** hold multiple AIM-AHEAD awards at the same time. Consequently, the following limitations apply:

- Applicants who have previously participated in an AIM-AHEAD traineeship, fellowship or research grant program as trainees, fellows, or PIs, respectively, are not eligible to apply to the same AIM-AHEAD program, but are encouraged to apply to other AIM-AHEAD programs.
- An applicant who applies to more than one AIM-AHEAD program, and is recommended for more than one award, should be aware that AIM-AHEAD will determine which award the applicant will receive. The applicant can only receive one award at a time.
- An applicant currently participating as an awardee, trainee, fellow, or PI in an AIM-AHEAD program, and whose current award is still active at the start of the second program, is not eligible to receive the second award.
- An applicant serving as PI on a current AIM-AHEAD award is not eligible to hold multiple AIM-AHEAD awards at the same time.

<https://www.aim-ahead.net/call-for-proposals-year-4/aim-ahead-hub-specific-projects/>

Eligible Applicants



Individuals who are affiliated with an eligible institution (described above) can apply for Hub-Specific Project funding. Applicants who have previously received funding from another AIM-AHEAD program are eligible to apply to the Hub-Specific Projects program. Individuals who have served as PIs on a previous or current Hub-Specific Projects award are not eligible for this opportunity.

Multiple applications from the same institution are permitted, as long as the studies are scientifically distinct.

Data Available for Participants



Data set	Brief Description	Data Allowed
A customized subset from OCHIN Community Health Equity Database	EHR data from Underserved communities	HIPAA Limited dataset, individual-patient level data with dates and geographic indicators if needed for research
Curated data from the MedStar Health EHR	EHR data from hospital system network with 31% African American patient representation	Multiple curated dataset options (further detail on website) pre-curated or custom curated de-identified EHR, Limited Dataset, Full PHI EHR dataset, Imaging, Select clinical notes, select genomics data, synthetic data
60+ studies from NHLBI BioData Catalyst	Selected large-scale cohorts related to heart, lung, blood and sleep disorders. Includes both prospective clinical studies and associated genomic TOPMED data.	De-identified dataset. Including individual level genomic (TOPMED full genomes) and clinical datasets.
Selected 15 Open datasets on AWS	A variety of datasets available including clinical and genomic data	Public data, and controlled access data (depends on dataset)
NIH All of Us	The All of Us Research Program is building one of the largest biomedical data resources of its kind.	The All of Us Research Hub stores health data from a diverse group of participants from across the United States.

You are also welcome to bring your own data and/or stakeholders.



Application Process using InfoReady

Tips to Prepare Before Applying



- **Read** the Call for proposal **carefully**
- **Check** Eligibility criteria
- **Start** the application **ASAP**
- Don't be bashful - **talk to your hub** representatives (<https://www.aim-ahead.net/leadership-core/>)
- **NIH Biosketch** is required [Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples | grants.nih.gov](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/biosketch/)
- **Ask questions:** Zoom chat right now, Q&A session immediately following webinar

Which Hub do you reside?



Hub Name	States Represented
Central Hub	American Samoa, Hawaii, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
North and Midwest Hub	Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
Northeast Hub	Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington DC
South-Central Hub	Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas
Southeast Hub-Meharry	Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia
Southeast Hub-Morehouse	Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, U.S. Virgin Islands
West Hub	Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico



Click on “Apply” and login using your AIM-AHEAD Connect Account

1

Submission Guidelines

The AIM-AHEAD Consortium utilizes the online portal [InfoReady](#) to upload and submit each completed component of proposal applications. **Please use Chrome, Firefox, or Edge.** – *If you are using Safari, make sure to clear your cache before logging in.*

Applications can be submitted using the *InfoReady* platform.

Step 1: [Click here to register](#) as a “mentee/learner” on AIM-AHEAD Connect (our Community Building Platform)

Step 2: [Click here to submit a fellowship application](#) for review using the InfoReady platform

Please note both steps must be completed for consideration.

*****All applications must be received by Monday, June 23, 2025 – 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time**

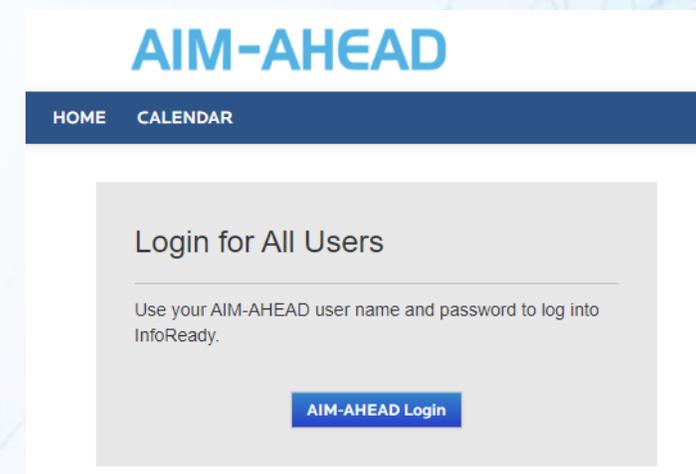
*****Late applications will be returned unreviewed.**

#1 can be found at the bottom of the CFP

2



3



Application Details



Application title *

Enter field description

 Settings

Project summary/abstract (1 pg maximum) *

Provide a succinct description of the proposed work including the project's long-term objectives, and a description of the research design and methods for the entire AI/ML project.

Drag and drop a file here or click the button below to select a file to upload

Budget and Budget Justification



Budget justification *

The budget justification should entail a narrative explanation of each of the components of the costs for performing proposed work. The budget explanations should focus on how each budget item is required to achieve the project's objectives and how the estimated costs in the budget were calculated.

Drag and drop a file here or click the button below to select a file to upload.

Please note: There is a Budget Template for you to download on the application homepage.

Submitting your application



I acknowledge that I am a US Citizen, Permanent Resident, or Non-Citizen National *

No Yes

Comments to the Administrator(s).

Previous

Preview

1. Scroll down and click on "Preview".

2. After carefully reviewing your entire application scroll down and click on "Submit" button.

TIP: If you are not ready to submit yet, progress can be saved as a draft to complete later.

Comments to the Administrator(s).

Edit

Submit

Application Process



Which Consortium hub should I connect with?

Be sure to record the relevant Hub on your application that represents your geographic location.

Hub Name

Central Hub

North and Midwest Hub

Northeast Hub

South-Central Hub

Southeast Hub-Meharry

Southeast Hub-Morehouse

West Hub

States Represented

American Samoa, Hawaii, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands

Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington DC

Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas

Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, U.S. Virgin Islands

Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico

Application Components



<https://www.aim-ahead.net/call-for-proposals-year-4/aim-ahead-hub-specific-projects/>

1. Applicant Information (Principal Investigator(s)/Program Director)(s)
2. Biosketch in NIH format/CV
3. Proposal Summary (limit 300 words)
4. Research Description:
 - Project Title
 - Specific Aims (1 page)
 - Significance (1 page)
 - Approach and Timeline (3 pages)
 - Investigative Team (1 page maximum)
 - Partnership Plan (1 page maximum)
 - References Cited (maximum 40 references)
 - Budget and Budget Justification (2 pages)
 - Responsible Conduct of Research, Human Subjects, and Animal Training

Applications must include all of the above components (Applicant information, biosketch(es)/cv(s)/resume(s), Proposal Summary, Research Description parts i – ix, Two Letters of Support). **Applications lacking any of these components will be considered incomplete and will be returned without further consideration.**

Application Components

1. Applicant Information (Principal Investigator(s)/Program Director)(s)
 - Provide names, institution/organizations, department, position titles, research areas, and email addresses
 - Gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic background, veteran, disability status (For evaluation and reporting purposes only)
2. Biosketch in NIH format (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> ) , **a curriculum vitae or a professional resume** (Maximum 5 pages). Biosketches in NIH format are required for key personnel from academic institutions.
3. Proposal Summary (limit 300 words) Describe concisely the specific research approach you intend to take, and identify aims, goals, deliverables, and timelines for the year.

4. Research Description: The proposed research focus or scope must fall within the AIM-AHEAD North Stars and propose community-engaged research approaches (See above). Proposed studies that do not actively demonstrate the inclusion of community partners in all aspects of the project **will be considered non-responsive** to this funding opportunity.
5. The Research Description should consist of the following sections (sections ii through vi may not exceed 7 pages):
 - i. Project Title: The title should describe the project in concise, informative language.
 - ii. Specific Aims (1 page): Provide a clear, concise summary of the aims of the proposed work and the project's relationship to your long-term goals. State the hypothesis to be tested. Briefly state the anticipated outcomes and benefits that will accrue upon successful completion of the project.
 - iii. Significance (1 page)
 - State the premise for the project
 - State the importance of the problem, the critical issue to be addressed, and the significance and relevance for community-engaged research
 - Explain how the proposed project will advance scientific knowledge, technical capability or community capacity.
 - Describe how the proposed project will contribute to the development of a subsequent extramural grant application

iv. Approach and Timeline (3 pages)

- Describe the feasibility of accomplishing the proposed research and/or capacity-building activities. **The project must be completed within one year.**
- Describe a community-engaged and/or collaborative research study design and strategies for inclusive participation of **all** partners and partner organizations (if applicable).
- Specify the specific data source (e.g. primary data collection or a database). Available Data sources Page 11)
- Outline the processes for establishing a data use agreement and obtaining IRB approval within the first 90 days of the award, or provide documentation that a data use agreement for the proposed project is already established and/or IRB has approved the proposed studies in human subjects or the use of data from living humans.

v. Investigative Team (1 page maximum)

- Describe the investigative team and their experience related to the proposed study

vi. Partnership Plan (1 page maximum)

- See the Sample Partnering Agreement Template from the NIH Office of the Ombudsman in the Center for Collaborative Resolution for elements to address in this section (<https://ombudsman.nih.gov/partnerAgree>)

vii. References Cited (maximum 40 references)

- List only references cited in the project description or supplementary documents of the proposal.

viii. Budget and Budget Justification (2 pages)

- Page 1: Use the [NIH Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period](#)  template.
- Page 2: Justification should be included for each of the separate fields for itemizing costs (consultants, equipment, supplies, travel, etc.). The total budget cannot exceed \$150,000 and must include direct and indirect costs. Applicants should budget for travel costs to attend the 2026 Hub Annual meeting and the AIM-AHEAD Consortium Annual Meeting (date and time TBD).

ix. Responsible Conduct of Research, Human Subjects, and Animal Training: NIH funding requires that investigators and all key personnel MUST comply with the [Responsible Conduct of Research](#)  requirement. Additionally, projects that involve [human subjects](#)  or data from living humans are required to submit the study protocol for review by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) and provide documentation of the determination from the IRB.

There is flexibility in assigning page limits among components, but items ii-vi of the proposal must not exceed 7 pages collectively. Use 11-point Arial font, single-spaced lines, and margins of at least 0.5 inches.

6. Letters of Support

- a. A Letter of Support from leadership (e.g. President, Vice President for Research, Academic Dean, Chief Executive Officer, Director) at the applicant's place of employment confirming leadership support of the proposed project and stating the applicant will be afforded the time to conduct the project.
- b. A Letter of Commitment from the partner community organization or stakeholders conveying their enthusiasm and participation in the pilot project.

Applications must include all of the above components (Applicant information, biosketch(es)/cv(s)/resume(s), Proposal Summary, Research Description parts i – ix, Two Letters of Support). **Applications lacking any of these components will be considered incomplete and will be returned without further consideration.**



Review Process and Criteria

Applications submitted to the AIM-AHEAD Coordinating Center will undergo an internal pre-review for completeness and adherence to proposal guidelines. **Incomplete and non-adherent applications will be returned unreviewed.**

All eligible applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by a modified NIH peer review process. The standard NIH scoring range (1-9) will be used to assign scores to the following criteria:

- Overall Impact
- Significance
- Innovation
- Approach

There are four review steps:

1. Administrative
2. Scientific
3. Programmatic
4. NIH

A Review Committee composed of AIM-AHEAD Consortium members will oversee these steps and criteria to evaluate proposals and recommend award recipients to NIH, which makes the final decision on awards.

Assessment of scientific merit will be guided by the specific questions related to the proposed project

Peer reviewers will consider the following questions when evaluating and scoring applications:



- Is the proposal co-led by a community-based organization that demonstrates a commitment to engage in the proposed research and/or capacity building activities?
- Do the AI research projects reflect community input?
- Are the study methods and findings shared with community stakeholders?
- What is the likelihood of accomplishing the specific aims within the period of the award?
- To what extent does the proposal align with the AIM-AHEAD North Stars and overall goals of the AIM-AHEAD Consortium?
- Does the application propose to develop novel algorithms or methods for addressing adverse lifestyle factors and related social variables or generate novel insights into factors that contribute to disproportionate poor health within communities?
- Does the proposal provide a strong rationale and solid track record for community engagement?
- To what extent does the proposal describe robust research methods and evidence-informed approaches to build and sustain community partnerships and participation?
- To what extent is the proposed approach likely to achieve the goals of the project? What is the likelihood of a successful outcome?
- To what extent does the proposal appropriately consider data, and privacy considerations?
- Is this project likely to generate sufficient preliminary data that can lead to a larger NIH grant application?

Additional Review Criteria: The review committee will evaluate the investigative team and institutional environment, but will not assign a score.

Programmatic Review: The AIM-AHEAD MPIs will conduct a programmatic review of applications. The primary criterion for programmatic review is the application evaluation by the scientific reviewers. Additional consideration will be given to alignment with AIM-AHEAD North Stars, stakeholder composition and geographical distribution of the overall cohort consistent with AIM-AHEAD program goals. Results of the programmatic review will be submitted to NIH for approval of awardees.

The NIH AIM-AHEAD program staff will review the final pool of applications recommended for funding and provide the final approval. PIs of proposals recommended for funding will be notified by email. Brief feedback from the reviewers will be provided to all applicants via email.

Hub-Specific Project grantees will also be expected to fulfill the following AIM-AHEAD program expectations:

1. Participation in monthly awardee meetings (via Zoom)
2. Timely submission of monthly progress reports, invoices, and surveys
3. Participation in annual hub and AIM-AHEAD Consortium meetings
4. Presentation of project results at AIM-AHEAD meetings
5. Permit AIM-AHEAD to disseminate study findings through online websites, social media, and other communication channels
6. Provide a summary of attainment status of research milestones listed in the proposal, challenges faced and plans to overcome those challenges, usage of funds, and next steps
7. Within 60 days following the project end date, submit a final report of research findings, usage of funds, and a list of publications, grant applications, articles, and conference presentations emerging from the research

Budget Estimates, Number of Awards, and Duration of the Program

Each Hub-Specific Project award cannot exceed \$150,000 in total costs. ***Each hub can support a maximum of 2 awards.*** The research and/or capacity building supported by funded applications must be completed within one year from the start date (TBD).

Hub-Specific Project Program Timeline



Notification of Awards

Funding decisions will be made by August 5, 2025.

Task / Activity

Start Date

Applications Open	04/23/2025
Application Deadline	06/23/2025
Notification of Awardees	08/05/2025
Earliest Program Start Date	09/02/2025
AIM-AHEAD annual conference (TBD)	07/08/2026-08/2026
End of Program	08/31/2026
Final Report Due Date	10/31/2026

Q&As ?