



Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center in partnership with Columbia University Center for Patient Safety Science invite faculty to apply for a new funding opportunity.

The **Learning Health System (LHS) and Health Equity Research and Training Award** is a 2-year grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) that supports faculty in conducting a systemwide research project focused on the intersection of equity and quality in healthcare. This unique opportunity provides 50% protected time, education, training, mentorship, tools, and resources to successfully complete a pilot research project and build a foundation of knowledge and skills to pursue future LHS research.

Letter of Intent Deadline	Friday, March 29, 2024 at 5 PM eastern
Application Deadline	Friday, May 31st, 2024 at 5 PM eastern ( <b>by invitation only</b> )
Award Announcement	June 2024
Maximum Award Amount	\$200,000 per award
Award Length	2 years

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## Application and Review Process

Interested applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to be considered for the LHS and Health Justice Research and Training Award. The LOI is a short document outlining the proposed research, including the specific aims of the research and the research's role in eliminating health inequities. ***See Appendix A below for the LOI instructions.***

The EQUIP Center will review all LOIs and invite a subset of applicants to submit a full, long-form application for consideration. The Review Committee, composed of faculty from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, will review all long-form applications and select the final awardees. ***See Appendix B below for the long-form application instructions.***

## Project Eligibility Criteria

All project proposals should:

- Clearly and directly address the intersection of health equity and/or health disparities with patient safety and quality research.
- Help inform a clear path toward sustained reduction in disparities in health outcomes (which could include system-level interventions across the health enterprise, rapid-cycle randomized trials, clinical decision support tools, community based participatory research, and more)

## Principal Investigator ("PI") Criteria



- Appointed full-time faculty member of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Instructor or Assistant Professor, at the time of application
- MD, MD-PhD, PharmD, or Doctorate of Nursing
- During each application cycle, only one submission is permitted per principal investigator (PI). Principal investigators may be listed as co-investigators or consultants on other applications.
- Only one individual may be designated as principal investigator (i.e., no co-principal investigators).

We encourage faculty who would benefit most from the additional program resources (e.g., [New or Early-Stage Investigator \(NI/ESI\)](#)) and those who have not yet received a substantial funding award [R01 or equivalent] to apply.

We strongly encourage applications from [underrepresented groups](#).

## Timeline

Key dates for the **2024 LHS and Health Justice Research and Training Award** include:

- **Feb 2024** Funding opportunity announced, application submission period opens
- **Mar 29, 2024** LOI due
- **Apr 15, 2024** Finalists notified and invited to submit a long-form application
- **May 31, 2024** Long-form Application Due
- **June 2024** Award notifications sent
- **Oct 1, 2024** Execute agreements; 24-month Award period begins; 50% of award funded
- **Oct 1, 2025** Mid-project progress report due; Award check provided; 50% of award funded
- **Aug 31, 2026** Final report due

## Additional Resources for Applicants and Awardees

Substantial research support services and educational offerings are available for **LHS and Health Justice Research and Training Awardees and applicants**. This investment in our research workforce will help to advance our capabilities in conducting innovative research and increase awareness of research processes in a Learning Health System.

**Applicants** will be able to access:

- Consultations from content-experts
- A curated online education library on research methodologies, LHS and Health Justice Research competencies, career development skills, and more
- Research design support including statistical and data analysis plan



**Awardees** will also have:

- Access to implementation specialists in EMR programming and data analytics
- Ongoing mentorship support
- Support for information and graphic design and data visualization
- Conference and journal identification, templates, and other dissemination support
- Required training in LHS and Health Justice core competencies. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Funding and Financial Management

The EQUIP Center will administer the contracts and financial arrangements with each awarded PI. The maximum award will be \$200,000 per award and will cover two years. The award funds will be disbursed in two payments: 50% on grant contract execution and 50% at the start of year two, following the mid-project progress report.

**In-kind support:** In addition to the award, the program will provide in-kind statistics and data analysis support, training benefits, graphic design support and navigation of other research resources, to be detailed with the long-form application. Awardees do not need to budget for this in-kind support.

**Allowable Costs:** *Faculty Salary* - While not required, we expect the budget and budget justification to reflect investigator commitment with salary support. The PI is expected to dedicate 50% effort to the project and using award funds for faculty salary is encouraged.

It is expected that in most cases the grant funding will be used to support the salary of the awardee during the funding period to allow them to devote 50% of their time to the project and educational activities. However, the selection committee will consider other uses of the funds including: personnel support, meetings, conferences, travel, research-specific software licenses (e.g., GIS/SAS/SPSS) or costs associated with generating/purchasing data sets.

**Not Allowable Costs:** Telecommunications devices; membership fees or dues to organizations; foreign travel to conduct research (Note: Foreign travel to present research IS allowable); general lab supplies that are NOT ATTRIBUTABLE to the project; office supplies; administrative and/or clerical salaries; personnel NOT working on the project; equipment; general software (e.g., Microsoft Office or One Note.)

## Awardees Progress Reporting and Dissemination Expectations

All awardees must file a mid-project progress report and a final progress report. Awardees are also expected to present their findings at national conferences, as applicable.

Additionally, as the EQUIP Center is funded by a federal grant, we ask that you cite the grant in any relevant publications, abstracts, chapters, and/or posters as follows: "This publication was supported in part by the AHRQ through Grant Number P30HS029763."



## Departmental Support

All applications must include a letter of support from Department Chair that certifies that an applicant will be able to devote 50% of effort to the research and educational activities over the 2-year period of support. It is strongly suggested that potential applicants discuss this with their Chair before submitting an LOI.

## EQUIP Center for Learning Health System Science

The EQUIP Center for Learning Health System (LHS) Science focuses on addressing equity and quality in healthcare through a comprehensive embedded LHS Scientist research and training program. An embedded LHS Scientist leverages health system data and collaborates with stakeholders to generate evidence that can be rapidly implemented to improve patient, population, and health system outcomes. The Center's name reflects its key domains: **E**quity and Health Disparities; **Q**uality and Safety; **I**mplementation Science and **I**nformatics; **P**atient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) and Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER). The EQUIP Center is a collaboration of three renowned academic institutions, Columbia University, Weill Cornell Medicine, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and their affiliated healthcare delivery systems, NewYork-Presbyterian and Montefiore Health System. The EQUIP Center brings together the complementary and multidisciplinary strengths of each institution to provide education, mentorship, rigorous research training, operations experience, and resources to support LHS Scientists' research projects. The novelty of our program lies in infrastructure enhancements, or the "+" in the 3 program phases: **Submission+** provides applicants with education and guidance in developing a robust project proposal; **Project+** provides tailored mentoring, consulting support, and technical and analytic resources needed to conduct LHS projects; and **Dissemination+** provides practical support to share research findings with a wide range of stakeholders.

The EQUIP Center is supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and participating health system partners.

### Program Contact Information:

Please e-mail:

William Southern, MD, MS, [wsouther@montefiore.org](mailto:wsouther@montefiore.org)



## Appendix A: Elements of the LOI

Interested applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to be considered for the grant. Key elements include:

<b>Study Overview (Abstract)</b>	<i>500 words or less</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Identify the research aims:</b> Provide a clear description of the problem the research addresses and the specific aims of the research. Identify the study design, hypothesis, and short- and long-term outcomes of the research.</li> <li>▪ <b>Discuss the significance:</b> State how the research extends the boundaries of current knowledge.</li> <li>▪ <b>Summarize the research plan:</b> Provide an outline of the research plan, including the methods, intervention, data collected, and data analysis plan.</li> <li>▪ <b>Timeline:</b> Provide an estimated timeline for the project which shows how the project will be completed within the 24-month period.</li> </ul>
<b>Impact on Health Equity &amp; Disparities</b>	<i>250 words or less</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Describe how the proposed research informs a path toward elimination or sustained reduction in disparities and improvement in quality</li> </ul>
<b>Investigators</b>	<i>1,000 words or less</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A list of all investigators</li> <li>▪ Include name, degrees, email address, and phone number, as well as institution name, department &amp; division, and title/appointment.</li> <li>▪ Include roles (e.g. Principal Investigator, Co-investigator, Collaborator)</li> <li>▪ Narrative bio sketch, including relevant publications and effort distribution and support</li> </ul>
<b>Form</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Word Document, ½" margins, 11pt font</li> <li>▪ The top of each page should include the Principal Investigator's name and title of the proposed study</li> <li>▪ Strict adherence to the word limits outlined above</li> <li>▪ Emailed to: <a href="mailto:wsouther@montefiore.org">wsouther@montefiore.org</a></li> </ul>



## Appendix B: Long-form Application

The EQUIP Leadership will review all LOIs and invite a subset of applicants to submit a full, long-form application for consideration. The completed long-form application should not be more than 6 pages long.

### Research Plan and Impact

*Limit to 2 pages*

- **Identify the research aims:** Provide a clear description of the specific objectives for the research. Identify the study hypothesis, as well as the immediate and ultimate objectives of the research.
- **Discuss the significance:** State how the research extends the boundaries of current knowledge. Be explicit about what is new, innovative, or transformative about this research and why it is necessary.
- **Discuss alignment with EQUIP:** Explain how the research aligns with the EQUIP vision and mission. Clearly explain how it will advance efforts to reduce health disparities and inequities.

### Research Approach

*Limit to 1 page*

- Provide the details of the research plan, including the methods to be used, which may include quality improvement methods.
- Explicitly describe the kinds of data that are to be collected, as well as any existing data sources, along with the plan to acquire all necessary data.
- Describe the analysis plan, including sample size estimates. Grants without a plan for statistical analysis section or sample size justification are unlikely to be successful.
- If the applicant has prior data or preliminary data pertinent to the present application, it should be briefly presented here. References to published work are preferred to detailed descriptions of published manuscripts.

### Timeline

- Provide an estimated timeline for the project.
- Provide a list of tasks/accomplishments which will be met in the first half of the project, which will be reported on in the mid-project progress report.
- Provide a list of tasks/accomplishments which will be met in the second half of the project and which will be reported on in the final progress report.

### Form

- Word Document, ½" margins, 11pt font
- The top of each page should include the researcher's name and title of the proposed study
- Strict adherence to the word/page limits outlined above
- Applications will be uploaded to an electronic portal. Instructions will be given to applicants who are invited to submit a full application.