

DELPHI Data Science Initiative Seed Grant Program

Request for Proposals

Overview

The Senior Vice President for Health Sciences Research Unit is excited to announce the FY25 Data Exploration and Learning for Precision Health Intelligence (DELPHI) Data Science Initiative seed grant program. This program aims to catalyze new collaborations and innovative research in data science and data-enabled science that will lead to federal extramural grant applications. Pilot awards will be awarded up to \$40,000, and we anticipate funding up to three awards.

The DELPHI Initiative aims to drive innovation in health and medicine by expanding data science expertise and accelerating scientific discovery. For more information on DELPHI, please visit our [website](#).

Timeline

- Deadline for submission is **11:59 PM (MST) on Thursday, April 10, 2025**.
- Decisions will be made in May - June 2025.
- Funding will start in June - July 2025.

Research Scope

We invite applications that build upon the mission of the DELPHI Data Science Initiative and support innovative health-related research that cuts across traditional research areas across the translational spectrum. Areas of interest include (but are not limited to):

- Development of new data science analysis approaches for discovery or translational applications
- Integration of large datasets with machine learning or artificial intelligence methodologies to advance applications imperative to the human condition
- Novel applications of data science techniques to critical research questions
- Novel computational, data analytics, and visualization techniques and frameworks to support research and discovery
- Use of data to improve translational research and improve the human condition
- Big-data-driven research to optimize outcomes from ethical perspectives
- Critical examinations of data infrastructure and/or policy
- Optimizing data presentation, storage, analytics, and/or access

Eligibility

- Only one research proposal per principal investigator (PI) will be reviewed. Faculty members may serve as co-Is on multiple proposals.

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- PIs must be tenure- or career-track faculty at the University of Utah.
- PIs must be tenure-line or career-line faculty who hold at least a 0.75 FTE appointment and have the capacity for the proposed research.
- PIs must not have a current award from the One Utah Data Science Hub seed grant program.
- Postdoctoral researchers can be included as Co-Is.

Review Criteria

Preference will be given to projects that include the following features:

- Have significant scholarly merit
- Demonstrate innovation in data science
- Have a high potential for future extramural funding from entities like the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, or foundations dedicated to research
- Are not currently supported by extramural funding in the seed grant topic area
- Represent work from new collaborative teams (either cross-campus or including industry partners) or that support the career development of junior faculty or a new direction for an established PI. We encourage multi-PI proposals spanning academic departments and disciplines.

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Application Instructions

Applications and all supporting documents are to be submitted via [InfoReady](#) by **11:59 PM (MST) on Thursday, April 10, 2025**. All uploaded application documents should be single-spaced and use 11-point Arial font and 1-inch margins. Grant administration is the responsibility of the principal investigator(s).

All applications must include each item in the following order:

1. **Abstract (250 words):** The abstract should consist of an accessible summary of the project and its potential impact. *This may be shared with non-scientists, scientists of different disciplines, and the greater UofU and Utah communities. Please ensure it is written for a general audience and no confidential information is provided.*
2. **Proposal Narrative (3-page maximum, including figures):** Please address specific aims, significance, innovation, approach, timeline, clear deliverables, data sharing plan, and extramural funding plan, including specific agencies and funding mechanisms/calls that the research group plans to apply for in the next 1-3 years.
3. **References (no page limit)**
4. **Budget (must use the provided template)**
5. **Biographical sketches or brief CVs for all investigators (5-page maximum per investigator)**
6. **Current and pending support for all investigators (no page limit)**

Budget Guidelines

Pilot grant funds may be used for salaries and benefits of non-faculty project personnel, supplies, miscellaneous expenses, and services. Funds *cannot* be used for faculty salaries, travel not directly related to project research (e.g., conferences cannot be supported by this grant), consultants, or office equipment, including computers (unless specifically justified).

Evaluation and Funding of Proposals

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the DELPHI Data Science Initiative and additional ad hoc members to assess innovation, scholarly merit, likelihood for success and external funding, and alignment with the mission of DELPHI. If human participants or animal research are involved, one copy of the IRB or IACUC approval will be required prior to the release of funds.

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Progress Reports

The following reports are required from all awarded PIs. Templates will be provided.

6 months	Progress report will be required for review by the research committee to assure adequate progress.
1 year	Progress report describing the results and deliverables of the research, future directions, and plans to secure additional funding.
Up to 3 years	Report of outcomes, impact, publications, or extramural funding stemming from the work.

PIs may also be asked to participate in the preparation of additional reports to donors or in events with presentations to donors.

Resources:

- Networking Opportunities. Do you need help finding a collaborator for a research project or have expertise that you'd like to offer to a novel project? Leverage our data science community!
 - Join our community by completing our [roster survey](#) or peruse potential future collaborators on our [roster](#).
 - Join our [data science community slack](#) and post in the #match-making channel.
- University Resources. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult and utilize University resources to build a competitive application.
 - [Data Science Services](#)
 - [The Clinical and Translational Science Institute Biomedical Informatics Core](#)
 - [Utah Population Database](#)
 - [Health Sciences and HCI Cores and Recharge](#)
 - [Scientific Computing and Imaging Institute](#)
 - [Utah Center for Data Science](#)
 - [Surgical Population Research Analysis Core](#)

Submit an Application:

Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted via [InfoReady](#) by **11:59 pm (MST) on Thursday, April 10, 2025**. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted or reviewed. Application review may take up to 90 days.

Questions? Please contact DELPHI Senior Manager Andrew George (andrew.george@hsc.utah.edu).