

2026 Innovation Grant – Call for Letters of Intent

The Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) is inviting Letters of Intent (LOI) for one-time health innovation grants. These grants will fund projects that encourage, facilitate, recognize and reward innovative and creative approaches to the field of medicine.

PAMED is a physician-led, member-driven organization representing all physicians, residents, and medical students throughout the state. As the voice of Pennsylvania's physicians, PAMED advances physician leadership and advocates for the ethical practice of medicine, quality patient care, and the public's health.

PAMED is looking for **innovative projects** with any of the following goals:

- Reduction of health care costs.
- Improvement in access to health care.
- Improvement of quality of care.

The project scope should include its potential to be replicated and applied across the state.

Eligibility/Selection Criteria

- Physicians, residents, medical students, public, non-profit, and private organizations are eligible to apply, but all applicants must be a member of PAMED to submit an LOI, throughout the review and proposal process, and for the duration of the grant period if one is awarded.
- County Medical Societies are eligible to apply, provided that the project focus is health care innovation rather than expansion of county operations. The project director must be a physician, resident, or medical student member of PAMED to submit an LOI, throughout the review and proposal process, and for the duration of the grant period if one is awarded.
- Practice Administrators are eligible to apply; however, the project director must be a physician or resident at the practice where the practice administrator is employed. The practice administrator and the physician or resident serving as the project director must be members of PAMED to submit an LOI, throughout the review and proposal process, and for the duration of the grant period if one is awarded.
- In addition to the applicant, **all physicians** who will be participating in a project (including consulting, directing, assisting, managing operations, planning to use the project for scholarship or research, etc.) must be PAMED members to submit an LOI, throughout the review and proposal process, and for the duration of the grant period if one is awarded.

- Physicians, residents, and medical students are only permitted to be involved with one PAMED funded Innovation Grant at any given time.
- Members of PAMED's Innovation Committee are not eligible to apply, nor are they eligible to participate in a project.
- Members of PAMED's Board of Trustees are not eligible to apply, nor are they eligible to participate in a project.
- Employees of PAMED or subsidiaries of PAMED and their families are not eligible to apply, nor are they eligible to participate in a project.

Timeline and Award Information

PAMED will accept LOIs from December 8, 2025, through January 19, 2026. All LOIs will be reviewed by a physician-led committee and those with projects that are consistent with the intent of the grant will be invited to submit a full proposal. Proposals will be accepted from February 13, 2026, through March 13, 2026.

PAMED will be awarding up to a total of \$500,000 for innovative projects. Individual grant amounts will not exceed \$100,000.

The grant cycle will begin July 1, 2026, and end June 30, 2027.

Letter of Intent Review/Invitation to Submit Proposal

All LOIs will be reviewed by a physician-led committee. Those determined to be proposing a project that is innovative and consistent with the intent of the grant will be invited to submit a proposal.

Projects described in the LOI will be assessed based on the degree to which they:

- Apply solutions that meet new requirements, unarticulated needs, or existing market needs.
- Execute an idea which addresses a specific challenge and achieves value for both the organization and the patients it serves.
- Develop new or improved health policies, systems, products and technologies, and services and delivery methods that improve patient outcomes and health.
- Respond to unmet needs by employing new ways of thinking and working, especially the needs of vulnerable populations.
- Add value in the form of improved efficiency, effectiveness, quality, safety and/or affordability.
- Create lasting change that is sustainable.
- Allow for scalability and replication throughout the commonwealth.

- Include diverse and equitable participation and/or access.
- Support the mission of PAMED.

Letter of Intent Guidelines

The LOI may not exceed 500 words. All LOIs must be submitted online by 4:00pm EST on January 19, 2026.

The LOI must:

- Clearly and explicitly convey the project's innovation and the potential impact on health care.
- Provide pertinent information to support the review process as described above.

DO NOT include any information in the LOI that identifies the applicant, organization or any individual who will be involved in the project, or that can be used to identify the applicant, organization or any individual who will be involved in the project. Only provide identifying information as requested as part of the submission process.

This grant promotes original and unexplored ideas; therefore, preliminary data is not required as a part of the LOI. However, a strong justification must be included. Previous projects may be cited as proof of competency to take on the proposed project. Existing and unanalyzed data may be cited in the proposal as supporting documentation.

Format Requirements

LOIs must be submitted using PAMED's online application portal.