

Biomedical Data Translator Funding Opportunity Announcement

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Participating Organization(s)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Components of Participating Organizations	National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)
Funding Opportunity Title	Biomedical Data Translator: Technical Feasibility Assessment of Reasoning Tool (OT2)
Activity Code	OT2: A single-component research award that is not a grant, cooperative agreement or contract using Other Transaction Authorities
Announcement Type	New
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number	93.350
Number of Applications	Only one proposal per team
Funding Opportunity Purpose	As part of the Biomedical Data Translator Program, NCATS is utilizing its Other Transactions authority to invite interested applicants to submit innovative proposals for research and development of reasoning software that autonomously integrates biomedical facts, models and inferences to answer important classes of translational research problems. Successful applicants will not only contribute their expertise and resources but also must be willing to collaborate to revolutionize translational science and propel new discoveries and best practices for practitioners across the translational spectrum, from biologists to chemists to computer scientists, from scientists doing target validation to clinicians seeing patients.
Program Background	www.ncats.nih.gov/translator
Objective Review	Objective review will be conducted in two phases. In the first phase, concept letters will be reviewed and successful candidates will receive written notification with instructions for submitting a full proposal and giving a virtual presentation to the review panel. Unsuccessful applicants will not receive written feedback from the reviews.

Concept Letter Due Date	September 22, 2017
Earliest Start Date	January 2018
Funding Instrument	Other: An assistance mechanism that is not a grant or cooperative agreement. Other Transactions awards are subject to the requirements of the NCATS Other Transaction Award Policy Guide for this initiative. Applicants may review this policy guide available at https://ncats.nih.gov/files/NCATS-Translator-OT-Policy-Guide.pdf
Eligibility	<p>All U.S. and foreign organizations and U.S. citizens are eligible to apply. This funding opportunity is open to U.S. and foreign organizations, including academic institutions and commercial entities; subcontracts are allowed. U.S. citizens may also apply as individuals without an organizational affiliation and may be direct recipients of an award. Non-citizen individuals residing in the U.S. or foreign country who are not affiliated with either a U.S. or foreign organization are not eligible to be direct recipients of an award.</p> <p>See Eligibility section of this announcement.</p>
Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards	<p>NCATS intends to commit \$3,000,000 in FY 2018 to fund up to 3 awards.</p> <p>Future year support is not applicable.</p>
Award Budget	<p>Awards will be approximately \$1,000,000 total costs. Milestones should be proposed accordingly.</p> <p>Performance will be evaluated monthly and continued support will be based on the outcome of those evaluations.</p>
Award Project Period	10 months
Funding Opportunity Expiration Date	September 23, 2017
	Frequently Asked Questions

Glossary of terms

FOA: This document you are reading is a funding opportunity announcement; it provides readers with specific instructions on what funding NIH is offering and how to apply for the funding.

Challenge: In order to access the complete FOA before a required concept letter is due, prospective applicants must successfully complete a series of computational tasks. Successful completion of the tasks will demonstrate the appropriate skill set for developing a reasoning tool. The Challenge is Step I of the three-step application process.

Concept letter: Step II of the application process. The concept letter is a required letter that must be submitted by the deadline in the Key Events table. This FOA document contains instructions for the content of that letter. Concept letters are submitted to the email address specified in the instructions.

Full proposal: Step III of the three-step application process. This is the document submitted by the applicant in November that requests funding for the development of a reasoning tool prototype. Based on the objective review of the concept letters, select applicants are invited to submit a full proposal. Instructions for submitting a full proposal will be provided separately.

Proof-of-concept project: This is a project that applicants are expected to present as part of their full proposal in November and will serve as preliminary data for the reasoning tool prototype research, development and testing. This project will be presented for evaluation by reviewers in a virtual meeting. Financial support is not provided for proof-of-concept development.

Prototype project: Reasoning tool prototypes will be developed & tested over a 10-month period with financial support from NCATS.

Other Transactions

The use of other transactions (which are not grants, contracts or cooperative agreements) enables NCATS to manage projects in which developments and integration of ideas and expertise from various disciplines are essential to achieve a programmatic goal. This means proposed projects and/or components of the projects submitted may be expanded, modified, partnered, not supported, or later discontinued based on program needs, emerging methods, technologies, or approaches, and availability of funds. All awardees will be expected to collaborate and cooperate with NCATS staff, one another and potentially other contributors to the overall program to maximize the exploration of the potential capabilities of Translator and to understand technical feasibility and challenges of having multiple groups build a single resource.

Eligibility:

This Other Transaction initiative requires successful completion of Step I, the challenge at: <https://ncats.io/challenge/start>. The challenge is designed to ensure that the applicants have the requisite skills to develop a reasoning tool prototype in a relatively short period of time. The

challenge is a multi-level computational exercise. Upon successful completion of each level, additional sections of the funding opportunity will be revealed. Prospective applicants must successfully pass through all levels of the challenge to gain access to the complete funding opportunity announcement. Inability to pass through all levels will result in an inability to access all of the instructions necessary to submit the requisite concept letter. All U.S. and foreign organizations and U.S. citizens are eligible to apply. This funding opportunity is open to U.S. and foreign organizations, including academic institutions and commercial entities; subcontracts are allowed. U.S. citizens may also apply as individuals without an organizational affiliation and may be direct recipients of an award. Non-citizen individuals residing in the U.S. or foreign country who are not affiliated with either a U.S. or foreign organization are not eligible to be direct recipients of an award.