

Health Equity Data Access Program Grant FAQs



GENERAL PROGRAM QUESTIONS

What does the Health Equity Data Access Program (HEDAP) grant offer?

Researchers in the HEDAP grant receive three years of funding (the amount varies per year) to gain access to restricted data for health research on underserved populations in the CMS Virtual Research Data Center.

What is the CMS Virtual Research Data Center?

The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) Virtual Research Data Center (VRDC) is a virtual research environment that provides timely access to Medicare and Medicaid program data. Researchers working in the CCW VRDC will have direct access to approved data files and be able to conduct their analysis within the CCW's secure environment. They will also be able to download aggregated reports and results to their own personal workstation.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What are the eligibility requirements for prospective applicants?

To be eligible, researchers must work at a:

- Public and state-controlled institution of higher education,
- Private institution of higher education, or
- 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization

Researchers must hold a doctorate or master's degree in health services research, social sciences, epidemiology, medicine, law or other related scientific/medical fields. You must have evidence of having designed and conducted research in health disparities or health equity.

How do I apply for the Health Equity Data Access Program Grant?

When a Notice of Funding Opportunity is available, it will be announced on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Applications can be submitted online at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Information will be updated on the HEDAP Grant at [go.cms.gov/hedap](https://www.go.cms.gov/hedap).

To remain informed about announcements and upcoming funding opportunities, please sign up for our listservs [here](#).

Where can I get help with grants.gov?

Grants 101 on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) details an overview of the grant process, a checklist for applying, and definitions for the terminology. For additional help, visit [grants.gov/support](https://www.grants.gov/support).

What research topics may be considered?

Proposed topics should meet the following criteria to advance health equity:

- Align with the topics listed in the NOFO
- Focus on CMS programs
- Advancing health equity for minority and underserved populations
- Target issues around health equity and disparities.

What populations are considered part of this research?

CMS would look for health equity research to focus on minority or underserved populations. This could be racial and ethnic minority groups; people with disabilities; members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) community; individuals with limited English proficiency; individuals residing in rural areas; and individuals (including children, youth, and families) adversely affected by persistent poverty or other inequities. CMS programs include the Marketplaces, Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP.

How are applications reviewed?

All applications are reviewed by a technical expert panel, a group of subject matter experts from across CMS, that makes a determination, not the CMS Office of Minority Health.

How many grantees are selected?

The number of grantees selected will be determined based upon available funding and the quality of the applications received.

When are selections announced?

Grant awards are announced in the months following the application deadline.

How can I be notified when the next HEDAP grant notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) launches?

To remain informed about announcements and upcoming funding opportunities, please sign up for our listservs [here](#).

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HEDAP GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Where can I find more information about the HEDAP Grant?

For more information, please visit go.cms.gov/hedap or review the program [informational flyer](#).

CONTACT US

How can I ask questions about the program?

Contact HEResearch@cms.hhs.gov with any program or application questions.

