

## I-CREATE Webinar Q&A

I-CREATE Application <https://www.universitylabpartners.org/i-create-solicitation>

Preliminary Applications are due by August 16, 2024, for consideration in the first cohort of I-CREATE.

**Q. Are applicants limited to 1 application per company per cycle?**

A. No.

**Q. If a company is pivoting its technology is it ok to reduce our TRL accordingly?**

A. Yes. It's understandable that pivoting a technology to a new indication or technical design involves returning to earlier development and validation stages.

**Q. The webinar is heavy towards diagnostics, will other cycles through I-Create be focusing on other areas of interest/medical devices?**

A. We are seeking applications for both medical devices and diagnostics. Future funding cycles may include additional areas of focus within medical devices and diagnostics, but the I-CREATE hub is specifically designed to fund those two categories of technologies.

**Q. There are several applications not listed in the Areas of Focus on the solicitation page. Are you funding medical device innovation for antimicrobial drug delivery (instead of diagnosis) aimed for pandemic preparedness? How about innovations that reduce the adverse effects of pandemics, medical devices that are for treatment and not diagnostics, medical devices for treatments of burns/wounds/radiation, or devices to treat antibiotic resistant bacteria?**

A. Specific applications and use indications for medical devices and diagnostics will be considered on an application-by-application basis. We encourage visiting our application landing page to evaluate the fit of your technology within the scope of the I-CREATE hub. Medical devices and diagnostics are applicable to a wide range of use cases; I-CREATE seeks to fund innovative medical countermeasures against health security threats.

To learn more about BARDA's priority areas, review the BARDA Strategic Plan: <https://medicalcountermeasures.gov/barda/strategic-plan/>

**Q. Assuming your project is awarded, once the period of performance is complete, can awardees still receive advice or mentorship in more immediate next stages?**

A. One of the objectives of the I-CREATE program is to prepare project teams for follow-on investment and funding following graduation from the Hub. We will work with teams to prepare pitch decks and commercialization plans that include technical, clinical, and regulatory pathways to best position your product and team for your next steps following participation in the I-CREATE program.

**Q. If we are developing a technology that can work for diagnosing multiple indications and are still figuring out our beachhead indication, should we just focus on one possible indication or can we focus on the platform capabilities?**

A. I-CREATE is excited about platform technologies that can contribute to mitigation and response to public health security threats. We recommend specifying in your application the indications to which your technology can be applied as well as selecting one, "beachhead" indication that will enable demonstration of proof of concept, validation, and will be the jump-off point for commercialization.

**Q. For platform technologies, such as a new thermocycler-free PCR, can we use the fund to test which pathogens our platform is effective against?**

A. Yes, I-CREATE is interested in funding innovative platform technologies and the critical de-risking activities that go along with demonstrating technology function.

**Q. Are there any constraints on being part of other accelerators and having BARDA support in addition to an NSF grant?**

A. No.

**Q. How important is business viability in the application process? If so, where can we best emphasize initial traction?**

A. We encourage you to describe the perceived market fit and differentiating factors of your technology in the application. Market viability is an important factor in the sustainability of companies outside of immediate public health emergencies, and it's important to make a plan for the gaining traction. I-CREATE encourages applicants to submit any letters of interest or support that you may have received. Our goal is to support the development of public health security threat innovations that also enable profitable operation of the companies commercializing the technology.

**Q. If not invited to submit a full proposal, will feedback be provided on the pre-proposal submission?**

A. We hope to be able to provide feedback to applicants in a timely manner, and we encourage applicants to reach out with any additional questions via our email [ICREATE@universitylabpartners.org](mailto:ICREATE@universitylabpartners.org)

**Q. How many companies do you anticipate selecting for the cohort?**

A. We are seeking to fund a minimum of three companies per year.

**Q. Are you interested in bacterial and fungal infection detection? We are agnostic but do not detect viral pathogens.**

A. I-CREATE does not limit funding of diagnostic technologies to those that detect viral pathogens. We recommend clearly specifying the benefit(s) of your technology for public health and security threats in your application.

Q. If we ask for a higher end of the budget and the application pool is tight will we have the ability to request less to get funded?

A. Yes.

Q. Can I-CREATE cover expenses such as R&D, reagents, consumables, IP costs, patient samples, small equipment, and staff?

A. Yes. We recommend selecting activities that are critical to the de-risking of your technology in your milestones and budget.

Q. Is there any follow-on funding if receive a grant?

A. At this time, we are only able to offer the funding described in the solicitation; however, one of the objectives of the I-CREATE program is to support product development and enable teams to reach value inflection points that facilitate further funding opportunities.

Q. Does this program open us up to other BARDA contracts similar to the legacy program of NSF?

A. We do not currently offer any pathways to other BARDA contracts; however, applicants are encouraged to review other funding pathways offered by BARDA <https://drive.hhs.gov/partner.html>

For additional information please visit our website [www.universitylabpartners.org](http://www.universitylabpartners.org) or contact [ICREATE@universitylabpartners.org](mailto:ICREATE@universitylabpartners.org).