

## **DATA Spring 2025 Round of Research Funding Call for Proposals**

Supplemental FAQs to information included in the call for proposals

### **How is DATA funding different from other seed funding programs available to academic researchers?**

While modest in size, DATA grants provide connection with industry partners and opportunity for larger follow-on collaborations. At the end of the DATA-funded project, industry partners together with the researchers may decide to develop the research into a separate, directly sponsored project and/or to discuss with the University possible licensing arrangements beyond the scope of the DATA-granted license.

Even if a proposal is not selected for funding, researchers get to submit their ideas to DATA's industry partners, which may lead to valuable feedback and potential collaborations separate from the DATA umbrella.

### **How is DATA proposal evaluation and project selection process different from other funding competitions?**

DATA proposal review and selection process is unique in that all research funding is provided by DATA industry members who also vote which project proposals will be recommended for funding and may collaborate with the researchers on developing the proposal. Neither the University of Michigan nor the NSF makes the funding decisions.

### **Do we need to connect with a DATA industry partner before we submit a proposal?**

No. There is no requirement to work on the project proposal with a specific DATA industry partner. Researchers are welcome to collaborate with DATA industry partners on developing their project proposal; however, such collaboration is in no way a pre-condition of proposal submission.

### **Are postdocs eligible to serve as project investigators?**

We strongly encourage the involvement of postdocs, students, and other researchers in training in the proposed projects. Postdocs may act as investigators or co-investigators. However, they are not eligible to serve as the Principal Investigator or co-Principal Investigator, i.e., researcher(s) with the overall responsibility for the conduct of the project.

With the exception of tenured faculty, effort of research team members, including but not limited to postdocs and students, is an allowable budgetary expense.

### **Are projects focusing on hardware solutions rather than algorithms (e.g., devices for treatment monitoring) within the scope?**

Yes, the design, testing, and validation of AI techniques for health monitoring with respect to drug and treatments is one of DATA's research thrusts. This includes hardware solutions as well.

### **Are projects that design solutions for data collection and integration without a strong analytical component within the scope?**

Yes, the development of secure data hubs and lab resources for the design, testing, validation, and assessment of drugs and treatments is one of DATA's research thrusts.