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# IMPACT Network RFA FAQ

## Funding Opportunity

### What is the funding opportunity?

ARIA is pleased to announce a Request for Applications (RFA) for institution-based, collaborative, multidisciplinary clinical research teams to join the first wave of participating sites within the Innovative Medicine and Precision Approaches to Clinical Trials (IMPACT) Network.

### What is the IMPACT Network?

ARIA is establishing the **I**nnovative **M**edicine and **P**recision **A**pproaches to **C**linical **T**rials (IMPACT) Network, a robust and collaborative network of sites that can accelerate clinical trial readiness and clinical trial implementation in both syndromic and non-syndromic forms of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

### Is there a target number of awarded grants?

The ARIA IMPACT Network will include multiple participating sites. We expect to invite up to 30 applicants to submit the full application, with a final selection of up to 10 sites.

### Will there be other ARIA funding opportunities this year?

ARIA is made up of three interconnected focus areas: (1) the IMPACT Network, (2) Frontier Science Research Hubs, and (3) a Shared Data Infrastructure. While the current RFA is specific to the IMPACT Network, we plan to have additional funding opportunities within the Frontier Science focus area. The timing for when those opportunities will open is TBD. You can always contact our team ([grants@aligningscience.com](mailto:grants@aligningscience.com)) or view our website for updates.

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## Funding Details

### What is the amount of funding available?

Applicants invited to submit a full application can request up to \$15 million USD in direct costs over five years. Funding will support the personnel and materials needed to enable this program's operational and trial readiness components. The indirect cost rate for all entities is 15%.

For more details on the IMPACT Network funding opportunity, please visit [the ARIA website](#).

## Eligibility

### Who is eligible for this funding?

Applications must be submitted by multidisciplinary clinical research teams, either from a single institution or multiple collaborating institutions. Applicants that include more than one institution per application will need to justify the structure based on geographical efficiency, expanded research and/or clinical capabilities, and/or specific personnel and leadership requirements.

This RFA is open to US, Canada, and UK-based public or private-sector organizations, including nonprofits and for-profit institutions, that provide clinical care for individuals affected by ASD and related neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs).

### Can international researchers apply for this funding?

Canadian and UK-based public or private sector organizations, including nonprofits and for-profit institutions that provide clinical care for individuals affected by ASD and related NDDs, can apply for this funding.

### Is a multi-site application required to be competitive?

No. Multi-site applications are not required and will not confer a competitive advantage. Single-site applications that meet the organizational eligibility criteria are fully acceptable and encouraged. That said, applicants may choose to submit a multi-site application if they believe that strategic collaboration across institutions would meaningfully strengthen their proposed approach. Applicants have full

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discretion in shaping the structure of their applications and should focus on assembling the team and resources best suited to deliver on the goals of the IMPACT Network.

## Application Process and Requirements

### How does the IMPACT Network Request for Application process work?

There are four steps for the IMPACT Network funding opportunity: (1) an **open** pre-application, (2) an **invited** full application, (3) an external review, and (4) a finalist interview. For details on each step, please visit [the ARIA website](#).

### What is the pre-application deadline?

The pre-application submission deadline is July 14, 2025, by 11:59PM ET. Applicants will be notified by August 18, 2025, if they will be invited to submit a full proposal, and the full application will be shared at that time. The deadline for full applications is October 13, 2025.

Receipt of pre-applications and full applications will be confirmed within 24 hours of submission. If you do not receive confirmation within 24 hours of submitting your application, please check your spam filters and contact [grants@aligningscience.com](mailto:grants@aligningscience.com).

### What documents or materials are required for submission?

The pre-application consists of short answer questions and prompts designed to preliminarily assess the capabilities of applying teams and their institutional capabilities and support, and for multi-institution applications to assess the ability of the team to collaborate across sites.

The pre-application questions are focused on the following areas: (1) organizational profile, (2) leadership and team profile, (3) clinical care, (4) clinical trials, and (5) clinical biomarkers. To view the pre-application, please visit the funding opportunities section [on the ARIA website](#).

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## Are there guidelines for preparing the application?

Guidelines for preparing the application can be viewed and downloaded [on the ARIA website](#). Applicants are advised to use these guidelines to start preparing their applications before the submission portal is open.

## How do I submit my application?

Our grant submission portal for pre-applications will open during the week of June 23, 2025. Applications must be submitted by July 14, 2025, at 11:59PM ET. If you would like to receive an email alert when the portal is open, please fill out the Stay Informed form located [on our website](#).

## How will grant decisions be made?

All applications will be evaluated for both clinical research capacity and alignment with the ARIA's mission and strategic priorities. All projects will be externally reviewed by a panel of experts who are familiar with our program goals and have deep expertise in clinical-translational research in neurodevelopment. ARIA Executive Leadership will make final decisions in consultation with external advisors and staff. The following criteria will be a critical factor in selecting the final sites:

- **Leadership capacity of the Coordinating Lead PI** – Does this PI possess the leadership qualities to guide a multidisciplinary team? Have they demonstrated the ability to work across scales and coordinate with investigators working across basic to clinical research?
- **Expertise of the co-PIs** – Do the PIs possess the appropriate expertise to work with the NDD community?
- **Leadership model** – Has the proposed team leadership demonstrated an ability to collaborate productively and bring together a multidisciplinary team of experts?
- **Vision** – Did the proposed team convincingly draw connections between their proposed IMPACT site team and the focus of the other Frontier Hubs?
- **Clinical care** – Does the proposed team have the ability to evaluate, treat, and care for children on the profound end of the spectrum?
- **Commitment to community engagement** – Does the proposed team work with patient advocacy groups (PAGs) focusing on research? Has the proposed team participated in any ASD/NDD-focused consortia efforts?
- **Experience with trials** – Has the proposed team successfully run observational and/or interventional clinical trials within the neurodevelopment space?

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The review process will be confidential among all parties involved in the application evaluation. Application materials will not be returned to applicants.

## **Who can I contact if I have questions during the application process?**

For inquiries about scientific priorities, eligibility requirements, and application submission, please send questions to [grants@aligningscience.com](mailto:grants@aligningscience.com).

For all other questions, including general and media inquiries related to the ARIA initiative, please contact [info@aligningscience.com](mailto:info@aligningscience.com).