

## Frequently asked questions

### What is the AbbVie Foundation Health Equity Accelerator?

The AbbVie Foundation Health Equity Accelerator focuses on catalyzing community-led innovation by helping proven nonprofit programs reach more people and create lasting change. The accelerator identifies nonprofit organizations with innovative approaches to addressing inequities in their communities — and empowers them with essential grants, mentorship and resources to refine their innovative solutions, plan for scale and drive impact in health equity.

### What types of ideas is this challenge seeking?

We're seeking innovative, community-led solutions that break down barriers and expand access to care. Eligible programs are beyond the idea stage, demonstrating evidence of success and that have the potential to scale across geographies or populations.

### Who should apply?

This national call is open to U.S.-based nonprofits focused on implementing community-led solutions that address health access or its non-medical drivers — also known as social determinants of health — and that match the following criteria:

#### The organization:

- **U.S. nonprofit:** Must be a 501(c)(3) public charity based in the U.S. and its territories and in good standing.
- **Operational readiness:** Possesses a strong leadership team with relevant expertise and the organizational capacity to execute the program.
- **Financial stability & vision:** Demonstrates stable financial health and a clear vision for long-term program sustainability.
- **Collaborative & transparent:** Has the capacity to provide regular, transparent reports on progress and outcomes.
- **Ready to scale:** Exhibits readiness to engage with mentors, advisors and the curriculum to grow the solution.

#### The innovative initiative:

- **Challenge-focused:** The initiative must directly address the problem statement outlined in the Challenge.

- **Beyond the idea:** The initiative is past the concept stage and has been tested, even on a small scale, with a focus on growth and impact.
- **Scalable solution:** The initiative impacts U.S. communities and has clear potential for replication in other geographies or populations.
- **Deep community impact:** The initiative can provide evidence-based results and demonstrates a significant, measurable impact on underserved communities.

### **Does my solution need to fit strictly into one of the "5 A's" (Affordability, Availability, etc.)?**

No. The "5 A's" are provided as a framework to help define barriers to care. We encourage holistic solutions that may address multiple categories or innovative approaches that lie outside these specific definitions, provided they increase access to care.

### **When does the challenge begin, and when will participants be announced?**

Applications open on January 27, 2026, and will close on March 8, 2026 at 11:59pm CT. MATTER will select up to five teams to participate in the accelerator, beginning May 11, 2026.

### **Who chooses the program participants?**

The MATTER and AbbVie Foundation teams will vet all submissions and select the participants.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for the program:

1. Must be a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) public charity in good standing.
2. Must be implementing a solution that breaks down barriers and expands access to care.
3. Participants must be 18 years of age or older.
4. Solutions must be an operational program beyond the concept stage with evidence of measurable impact.

### **What is required of applicants?**

The following requirements for all applicants are:

1. Must be able to demonstrate a validated hypothesis or preliminary proof-of-concept around how their solutions address the key problem.

2. Must complete a short application outlining the key problem being addressed, including a description of their solutions, model and strategies.
3. Must be available to participate in a 10-week accelerator consisting of scheduled virtual programming such as cohort activities, mentoring and workshops taught by industry leaders. Time commitment from participants will be roughly five to seven hours per week from May 11-July 17, 2026. These valuable meetings are facilitated via conference calls or web conferencing platforms to permit global participation.
4. Must be available for two key in-person events at MATTER in Chicago, Illinois, including the program kickoff the week of May 11, 2026 and the final showcase the week of August 3, 2026.

## **How do I apply for the program?**

Visit the AbbVie Foundation Health Equity Accelerator [\*\*challenge page\*\*](#) to apply.

## **How many times can I apply?**

Each nonprofit organization can submit one submission to the program annually. Multiple submissions in the same year are not permitted. Nonprofits not selected may re-apply to participate in the accelerator year after year provided their submission meets the requirements of the program.

## **How many participants will be selected?**

The AbbVie Foundation and MATTER will select up to 10 teams to determine their fit for participation in the program during 30-minute meetings from March 23-April 3, 2026. MATTER will select five teams to participate in the accelerator beginning on May 11, 2026. The program will begin with a kickoff event in Chicago, Illinois, the week of May 11, 2026 and will culminate in a final showcase event in Chicago, Illinois, the week of August 3, 2026. All participants will receive a \$10,000 stipend, and one organization will receive a \$50,000 grant at the conclusion of the program.

## **What will program participants receive?**

Participants can expect to:

- Engage with a cohort of innovative nonprofit organizations addressing health equity in communities.
- Refine their program model and strategies with support from the AbbVie Foundation, MATTER and industry experts.
- Pitch to potential investors, partners and clients at the final showcase.

- Dedicate five to seven hours per week for workshops, mentoring and cohort activities.
- Complete the program with a polished pitch deck and actionable next steps to further advance their solutions over the subsequent six months.
- Receive a free, six-month MATTER membership.

### **What judging criteria will be used to evaluate solutions?**

Candidates will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Ability to clearly articulate the problem statement and solution
- Ability of the solution to break down barriers and increase access to care
- Quality, feasibility and scalability of proposed solution
- Differentiation of solution within the competitive landscape
- Organizational strength and capacity
- Capability of participant/team to develop and execute solution
- Alignment with the AbbVie Foundation's mission and the value proposition of the program

### **What if I still have questions about the program?**

Please contact [katie@matter.health](mailto:katie@matter.health) with any questions.

### **Terms and conditions**

See the full **Terms and Conditions**.