PARATUS Digital Health Accelerator | POWERED BY MATTER

FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are technologies of interest?

Areas of focus for the Project include digital health tools that enhance preparedness and response to public health emergencies due to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incidents, pandemic influenza and emerging infectious diseases. These tools should increase access, reduce cost or more rapidly disseminate medical countermeasures (MCMs).

Across these areas, we are interested in digital health solutions that can support preparedness, health readiness and mobilization.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Tools to enhance MCMs readiness and clinical capacity
- Technologies to enhance clinical trial diversity
- Capabilities that promote more equitable access to MCMs
- At-home diagnostics and telemedicine solutions
- Risk assessment and patient stratification capabilities and tools
- Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning innovations to enhance preparedness and response to public health emergencies
- AI and machine learning innovations to increase the efficiency of pre-clinical development of MCMs
- Novel ways to collect and validate real-world evidence

Who is eligible?

The Project is open to all eligible individuals and legal entities.

We're seeking entrepreneurs and university-backed researchers who are developing digital health solutions that will empower the nation to prepare for and respond to health security threats and improve the continuum of clinical care.

This global call for solutions is open to startups from across the innovation ecosystem with an established proof of concept, evidence of product-market fit and business model potential.

All participants must be 18 years of age or older.

Is this program virtual or in-person?

This program is conducted virtually.

What is the time commitment?

Participants must be available to advance the project based upon the milestones submitted with their project. They must also set aside a minimum of one hour a week to meet with a dedicated mentor. Participants will also need to check in regularly with MATTER to ensure the project is on-track.

Do I or my collaborators need to register with the system for award management?

No. SAM.gov registration is not required.

What is the application and program timeline?

December 18, 2025: Preliminary applications open
January 17 and January 28, 2025: Informational webinars
January 31, 2025: Preliminary applications close
February 28, 2028: Selection decisions and invitation to submit full application
March and onward: Project deployment

What are the selection criteria?

We will evaluate submissions with the following criteria in mind:

- Ability to clearly articulate the problem statement
- Demonstration of the quality, feasibility and scalability of proposed solution
- Differentiation of solution within the competitive landscape
- Capability of participant to develop and execute the solution
- Description of the funding opportunity and how it can advance the solution
- Extent to which Paratus can advance the solution (i.e., mission fit)

What can be funded?

- Advance technologies currently in development to the next milestones and value inflection points
- Engage a study site to complete validation work
- Increase access and enable faster dissemination of MCMs
- Reduce cost of MCMs
- Improve platforms in development to advance clinical research and clinical care coordination

Allowed expenses for the non-dilutive funds include: direct costs for development, evaluation or validation activities including study site funding, and labor for personnel or CROs "doing the work."

What is the expected funding duration?

There are two project formats:
1. Quick-hit projects that will span six or fewer weeks, these are funded between $20,000 and $40,000 (up to twelve studies)
2. In-depth projects that will span up to twelve weeks, these are funded between $100,000 and $180,000 (up to four studies)

It is anticipated that project milestones will be identified for the duration of the proposed project, and that the funding will be spent during the time period. Project management and mentor support will be provided during the project. Paratus and BARDA also understand that unforeseen and unpredicted events happen during development, evaluation and validation activities.

Are there reporting requirements?

There will be reporting requirements on a quarterly basis, based on milestones achieved.

What is the access to subject matter experts and resources?

Companies and individuals that receive funding from Paratus will have access to BARDA subject matter experts and other related BARDA resources. Access to these BARDA resources will be managed and coordinated by the Paratus team.

Does my organization's technology best align to the Paratus Hub, another BAN Hub, or other programs at BARDA?

A technology that aligns to the Paratus Hub might also be aligned to some of the other BAN Hubs, including the Device and Diagnostics and Enabling Technologies. For organizations developing AMR technologies, please also look into BARDA's Countering Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (CARB-X) Program supported by BARDA. Organizations should also look into open Areas of Interest for the BARDA DRIVe EZ-BAA funding opportunity and other BARDA funding and partnership opportunities. The decision about which Hub or program to apply to is up to the organization.

- CARB-X: https://carb-x.org/
- BARDA DRIVe: https://drive.hhs.gov/partner.html
- BARDA BAA funding: https://medicalcountermeasures.gov/barda/barda-baa/
- BARDA's main page: www.medicalcountermeasures.gov