

GAIN Program FAQs

Q: I thought the GAIN is a single investigator proposal with no Co-PIs, are you now allowing Co-PIs for the GAIN proposals?

A: The PI must be a junior faculty member. In the latest release of the GAIN solicitation, we will allow only clinician or industry collaborators to serve as Co-PI's or consultants. This change was to encourage these collaborations.

Q: Can I submit a GAIN proposal without a clinician or industry collaborator?

A: Yes. The inclusion of a clinician or industry collaborator is optional. If NO clinician or industry collaborators are included, the maximum amount that can be requested is \$60,000.

Q: Can I use the \$15,000 allowed for inclusion of clinician/industry collaborators to include more than one clinician/industry partner?

A: Yes. The external reviewers will assess the quality and benefits of the collaboration regardless of the number of collaborators included.

Q: If I only budget \$10,000 for the clinician/ industry collaborator, can I use the remaining \$5,000 for other items in my budget?

A: No, the additional \$15,000 is for support of a clinician/industry collaborator only. For example, if the collaborator only requires \$10,000, then the total budget for the GAIN proposal should be \$70,000.

Q: If I include a clinician or an industry partner as a consultant, do I need to include their personnel documents (Biosketch and Synergistic Activities)?

A: If you include a clinician or an industry partner as a consultant, only the information specified in Section F, Item 5, is required. However, if the clinician or industry partner is listed as a Co-PI, then all documentation required for senior personnel must be provided.

Q: What is meant by stating that award recipients will be part of the ADAPT in SC project?

A: Because GAIN awards serve as cost-sharing contributions to the ADAPT in SC project and are selected for their potential to support the project, all PIs and Co-PIs automatically become members of the ADAPT in SC project. As members, they are required to participate in ADAPT in SC meetings, conferences, webinars, annual reporting, and other project activities.

Q: What do you mean by “clinician”?

A: A clinician generally refers to a licensed medical professional involved in patient care or clinical practice, such as a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, physical therapist, or similar role. The solicitation itself does not define “clinician,” but the intent is to involve healthcare professionals who can support research related to biomedical devices or health applications by lending their expertise to the research being proposed.

Q: What do you mean by “industry collaborator”?

A: An industry partner is defined as a business or commercial entity that collaborates with the Principal Investigator (PI) to support the proposed project. Such partners may contribute expertise, access to technology, access to data, and/or facilities, to advance the objectives of the research. Industry partners are external to the applicant institution and are typically engaged to enhance the project’s potential for innovation, practical application, or commercialization.

Q: Can a clinician be from my institution?

A: Yes. A clinician from your institution can participate as a consultant or Co-PI.

Q: Are graduate students and post docs allowed to participate?

A: Yes, graduate student support is encouraged but not required.

Q: What is the maximum award size and duration?

A: The maximum award GAIN is \$60,000 for a maximum of 18 months. An Additional \$15,000 can be awarded if a clinician/industry collaborator is included.

Q: Are the GAIN funds considered pass-through funds from a federal agency?

A: No. the GAIN program funds as well as all other SC EPSCoR seed-funded awards (GAIN CRP, SPARK, Phase-0 and others) are derived from state funds and are not associated with a federal PPN number.

Q: How will proposals be reviewed?

A: External reviewers (from outside South Carolina) will evaluate proposals based on 1) intellectual merit, 2) broader impacts, 3) collaboration quality, 4) alignment with ADAPT in SC themes, and 5) potential for securing future external funding. Based on the external reviews, the ADAPT in SC External Advisory and Review Board makes the final recommendation for funding.



Q: What are the formatting requirements?

A: Times New Roman, 12-point Font, 1-inch Margins.

Q: What happens if my proposal exceeds page limits?

A: It will not be accepted and will be returned without review.

Q: How do we submit the proposal?

A: All proposals must be submitted through the SC EPSCoR portal:
<https://sceprior.infoready4.com/CompetitionSpace/#homePage>