



Digital Square Call for Proposals— Notice C

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Digital Square is a partnership of the world's leading digital health experts and organizations working together with countries to strengthen digital health systems in emerging economies. Our aim is to help strengthen national digital health systems by coordinating investments into scalable technology solutions and creating an environment in which they can be sustained. By helping to coordinate donor investments we can help maximize their impact. Funding for digital health global goods has not been coordinated across donor agencies and other digital health investors resulting in duplicative investments and limited reuse of existing digital health tools. These investments are typically short-term, volatile, and targeted at country-specific programmatic activities. This places an undue cost-burden on those programs and hampers long-term strategic planning, development, and productization of these global goods. It is an unsustainable and ineffective approach to improving health outcomes at the level needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Coverage. Digital Square, which was launched to address these challenges, is a PATH-led initiative funded and designed by USAID, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others.

With regards to global goods, Digital Square focuses on the following activities:

1. Securing investment to increase the resilience, reuse, and sustainability of digital health global goods, which will ultimately reduce the cost of individual digital deployments while also increasing the effectiveness and impact of those deployments.
2. Development of, and advocacy for, the adoption of common metrics to compare and prioritize future investments in global goods.
3. The establishment of efficient governance processes and financial mechanisms, building trust in, and additional resources for, global goods.

We are also working with partners to create digital market readiness by building capacity with governments, local technology developers, and health workers to bring these technologies to scale. This RFP is published with activity 1, above, in mind.



Announcements

Announcement C0: Global Good Software Development and Support

Digital Square is accepting proposals for investments in existing digital health software tools to support progress against the [Global Goods Maturity Model](#). Investments funded through this call for proposals will support existing global goods to ensure they are properly resourced.

To be eligible for funding through Notice C, your global good must meet the following criteria:

- Existing software that has been deployed in three or more low or middle income countries.
- Be a global public good¹. Software tools will be considered a global public good if either:
 - The source code is made available under Open Source Initiative approved software license²; or
 - The software is freely accessible and adheres to the Open Definition³ for access to data.
- Software has been applied to a health domain.

Examples of investments that will be made available through this call for proposals include (but are not limited to):

- Supporting the development of significant new functionality of a digital health software tool according to an identified and well-articulated need.
- Providing ongoing support for software maintenance of a digital health software tool;
- Supporting the community and ecosystem of resources (improved documentation, tutorials, etc.) needed to facilitate the adoption and use of a digital health software tool;
- Supporting ongoing development of features of a digital health software tool which are identified as priorities through existing robust community lead processes;
- Supporting the establishment of an organizational home for a digital health software tool; and
- Adding new features to enable different business models which broaden the revenue base of a digital health software tool.

The following will be considered out-of-scope:

- Investments in country implementations or adaptations intended for country-specific deployments; and
- Investments in that are not applicable outside of one health program area.

Currently, \$800,000 of funding has been identified from which several awards are expected to be made.

¹ http://www.who.int/trade/distance_learning/gpgh/gpgh1/en/index1.html

² <https://opensource.org/licenses>

³ <https://opendefinition.org/od/2.1/en/>



Announcement C1: Modular transformation of openIMIS

The open source Insurance Management Information System (openIMIS) Initiative envisions a transformation into an MIS which is interoperable with national health information architectures. Digital Square, in coordination with the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), is accepting proposals to further the development of openIMIS according to the priorities and roadmap as described on the [Wiki](#) of the openIMIS Initiative. Proposals could include, but not be limited to, activities such as:

- Support the development of a community of practice for implementers and developers of openIMIS.
- Develop a proof-of-concept claim submission, enrollment and/or enrollment verification module with a clinical point of service application using the relevant HL7 FHIR standards. openIMIS would like to see established initiatives operating at the health facility level to be involved in the development of claiming mechanisms that are based on already existing patient level data systems (e.g. OpenMRS/Bahmni, RapidPro, CommCare, DHIS2 Tracker, openSRP, etc.).
- Develop synchronization services with an OpenHIE compliant Client Registry and Facility Registry.

Proposals should be developed with clearly defined and budgeted work packages for each area of activity within the openIMIS priority list. At least \$100,000 will be available to support these activities with the possibility for additional support as further resources are identified.

Proposal Submission Process and Deadlines

Submission of proposals will utilize the Digital Square open proposal process, which begins with a concept note. Proposal submission deadlines are detailed below and proposal materials must be submitted on Digital Square's [Open Proposal](#) website. By submitting your proposal to Digital Square, you acknowledge and agree that your proposal, including overall budget amount and budget notes, may be shared publicly on Digital Square's Open Proposal Process and Platform (OPP&P). This site and this process offers transparency with other submitters, Digital Square's Peer Review Committee (PRC), and other organizations and individuals without obligation of confidentiality. By participating in this Open Proposal Process you agree that detailed budget breakdowns may be shared with Digital Square's Governing Board.



STEP	ACTION	DEADLINE
Step 1: Concept Note Phase	Digital Square issues a call for proposals and submitters upload concept notes to Digital Square's OPP&P.. The PRC and other submitters can provide feedback, comments, suggestions, and identify potential areas for collaboration.	June 19 to July 20
Step 2: Proposal Co-creation Phase	Digital Square will determine which of the concept notes are in scope for Announcement C0 and in collaboration with GIZ for Announcement C1. Digital Square will communicate with submitters by July 31. Moving forward with identified collaborators and using feedback received during the concept note phase, submitters begin proposal development. Proposal submitters can post iterations of their proposal based on community feedback. The PRC and other submitters can provide feedback, comments, and suggestions on the posted proposals.	July 21 to September 3
Step 3: Proposal Finalization Phase	Taking into account feedback, submitters finalize their proposal and budget and submit to the Digital Square OPP&P. The budget is not shared publicly on the platform and the PRC sees only the high-level budget and Level of Effort (LOE) percentages. Submitters are encouraged to structure their budget into discrete work packages. Submitters should also fill out a self-assessment of their tool using the Global Good Maturity Model for digital health software tools and register their tool with the Digital Health Atlas .	September 4 to September 18
Step 4: PRC Review Phase	The Peer Review Committee reviews proposals according to Prioritization Framework criteria and votes on green-, amber-, or red-lit status .	September 19 to October 10
Step 5: Board Review phase	Digital Squares presents the proposals, budget, and Peer Review Committee votes to the Governing Board, which votes on which proposals should be approved and prioritized for investment.	Mid to late November
Step 6: Award Phase	The result of the Governing Board vote and Peer Review Committee feedback are communicated to the submitters.	



Peer Review Committee Membership

Current membership of the PRC includes representation from the following organizations:

- Digital Square (chair, non-voting member)
- African Centre for eHealth Excellence (Acfee)
- Asia eHealth Information Network (AeHIN)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL)
- GSMA
- Health Data Collaborative (HDC) via the Digital Health & Interoperability Working Group (DH&I WG) including:
 - GIZ
 - IntraHealth International
 - Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
 - MEASURE Evaluation
 - RTI
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- President's Emergency Plan For Aids Relief (PEPFAR)
- Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions (SPIDER)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Governing Board Membership

Current membership of the board includes representation from the following organizations:

- PATH (ex officio member)
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL)
- FSG
- Office of the National Coordinator (ONC)
- Tableau Foundation
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Wipro