

Fact-Finding Questions for Notice E – April 29, 2020

General Questions for Notice E:

Question: *In previous rounds, the Digital Square team indicated that if your tool had been shortlisted (in earlier rounds to be considered for funding but has not yet received funding) then there was no need to resubmit. If either E0 or E1 apply to us, should we modify our earlier submission for this round?*

Answer: It is not necessary to resubmit unless there is a request for support with a substantially different scope. Digital Square remains committed to seeking funding for approved applications from prior Notices.

Question: *Will Digital Square please share who the primary funder is for both Notices?*

Answer: Current confirmed funders include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as well as the President’s Plan For Aids Relief (PEPFAR) through United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Question: *Based on the statement below, can you please clarify how various work-streams can be segmented into work packages?*

“If your application includes several objective areas or workstreams, the application should be broken up into clearly identified work packages framed around the shelf-readiness framework sections. Any dependencies between work packages should be clearly indicated.”

Answer: As an illustration “shelf-readiness” (https://wiki.digitalsquare.io/index.php/Shelf_Readiness) calls out the following areas of review: maturity model advancement, installation and deployment, quality assurance and testing, product information and documentation. Applicants are encouraged to frame their asks within the areas as work packages and ensure that there is a clear distinction of delivery. I.e. “Develop an automated testing harness for X” would be framed as a standalone work package alongside “develop clear implementer documentation for X” or “add FHIR interface to Y”. These work packages should be budgeted and represented as standalone packages.

Questions for Notice E0 (RFA #2020-018) | Phase 1 Shelf Readiness:

Question: *In response to the Phase 1 Shelf Readiness RFA, we have one question regarding the eligibility criteria. Would the following software qualify as a “global public good”?*

- *The suite of software is “open-core”, containing both actively maintained, LGPL-licensed, free and open-source components and a proprietary component.*

- *The software has been implemented for numerous health programs in multiple countries to manage and transmit health-related data*

Answer: Yes, it would be reviewed for consideration as a global good. From the definition of a Global Good ([https://wiki.digitalsquare.io/index.php/What are Global Goods](https://wiki.digitalsquare.io/index.php/What_are_Global_Goods)) tools are frequently free with a focus on health domain. Digital Square supports a sustainable approach to tooling and understand the value of free-core and enterprise model. The investment would be focused on delivering functionality under the open source aspect of the project.

Question: *There was some language about minimum requirements:*

- *“Be an existing software that has been deployed in three or more low-resource contexts.” Does this mean 3 different countries, or just 3 deployments (instances, programs, or ?).*
- *Alignment under OpenHIE project: Does this mean that any application must focus on adding to Instant OpenHIE, or just improving the software to be able to be used by Instant OpenHIE at some point in the future?*

Answer: The deployment is illustrating reuse and adoptability/adaptability of the tool for the context. Applicants are encouraged to motivate and support their implementation case showing the tools ability to meet a broad use-case be it in different implementation settings within country or multiple countries.

Yes; the tool is expected to be conformant with the Instant OpenHIE deployment and configuration design and, where applicable, packaged to be show cased within the Instant OpenHIE; it is encouraged to highlight which use-case/workflow the tool would use/contribute towards within the Instant OpenHIE project.

Questions for Notice E1 (RFA #2020-019) | Client Registries:

Question: *Would linkages to potentially commercial software solutions for biometrics and the development of associated implementation support resources be considered in scope?*

Answer: A full-fledged client registry should support multiple means of client identification and/or verification and biometrics are certainly a piece of this. You may wish to consider using the Open Application Process to identify and articulate the intersection point between a biometric toolkit (and the requisite standards) with a client registry.

Question: *We have developed a Client Registry following all the requirements stated in the RFA but we have yet to develop the interface. Would we still be eligible to submit a concept note?*

Answer: Yes, as long as it is open-source or it would be open-sourced as part of this work.