

Request for Application #2023-011

Oxford Open Digital Health Supplement

I. Summary of Deadlines

The expected schedule for this application is outlined in the following table. Note that PATH reserves the right to modify this schedule as needed. All parties will be notified simultaneously of any changes through a modification posted on [Digital Square's website](#).

Release of Request for Application	March 21, 2023
Submission of fact-finding questions to msoc@path.org	March 28, 2023
All fact-finding questions and answers posted to WizeHive Portal	March 31, 2023
Applications due	April 7, 2023
Applicants notified of decision	May 1, 2023

II. PATH Statement of Business

PATH is the leader in global health innovation. An international nonprofit organization, we save lives and improve health, especially among women and children. We accelerate innovation across five platforms—vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, devices, and system and service innovations—that harness our entrepreneurial insight, scientific and public health expertise, and passion for health equity. By mobilizing partners around the world, we take innovation to scale, working alongside countries primarily in Africa and Asia to tackle their greatest health needs. Together, we deliver measurable results that disrupt the cycle of poor health. Learn more at www.path.org.

III. Project Background and Proposed Timeline

A. Project Background

In pursuit of our Mission: **connect health leaders with the resources necessary for digital transformation**, Digital Square offers a new way to invest in digital health—providing a space where countries and members of the global community can gather to think big and do good, together. By convening government officials, technological innovators, donor and implementation partners, and others across borders and boundaries in the Digital Square, we can grow possibility into reality by focusing on our common goal: **connecting the world for better health**.

Digital Square’s work support three result areas:

- 1. Alignment and Co-investment:** Digital Square helps to identify promising investment opportunities and provides operational support to streamline procurement.

2. **Global goods:** Digital Square promotes the development, adoption, and reuse of [global goods](#), and helps increase their availability, adaptability, and maturity.
3. **Regional and Country Systems:** Digital Square helps elevate country priorities and strengthen regional and national capacity.

While there have been a handful of publications evaluating the costs of digital health investments, there continues to be inadequate evidence evaluating the impact of these investments on health outcomes. As such, Digital Square is seeking authors to submit original work to a potential [Oxford Open Digital Health](#) peer review publication supplement. The supplement's aim is to provide evidence of the health impact (e.g., coverage gains, lives saved, cases averted, DALYs averted) and/or cost-effectiveness of digital health interventions, particularly tools listed as [global goods](#). Digital Square will be generating one method paper that can be shared with authors to potentially help inform methodologies. The method paper will focus on leveraging the [Lives Saved Tool \(LiST\)](#) and [Digital's Square's Total Cost of Ownership \(TCO\) Tool](#) to understand impact and costs. Alternative methods are also welcome. We are encouraging submission in a variety of health areas. To be considered for funding, the submissions must be in relation to a [global good](#).

Digital Square list of global goods		
Android FHIR SDK*	mHero	openIMIS
Bahmni	ODK	OpenLMIS
CommCare	OpenEyes*	OpenMRS
Community Health Toolkit	OpenClinic GA*	OpenSRP
Digital Infrastructure for Verifiable	Open Concept Lab	Product Catalog Management
open Credentialing (DIVOC)*	OpenBoxes	Tool (PCMT)
DHIS2	OpenCR	RapidPro*
Everwell Hub	OpenCRVS	Reveal
GeoPrism Registry*	OpenELIS Global	SanteMPI
Global Open Facility Registry	OpenFn	SORMAS
GNU Health*	OpenHexa*	Tamanu
Iaso*	OpenHIM	Tupaia*
iHRIS		Vxnaid*

**New Digital Square global good*

B. Proposed Project Timeline

PATH anticipates that the implementation period for up to four awards will be up to ten months with possible extension contingent upon availability of funds and satisfactory performance. As part of Digital Square's due diligence, we will conduct pre-award evaluations of all shortlisted candidates. We will use our recipient pre-award survey, informed by USAID's non-US organization pre-award survey (NUPAS) and other industry-wide standards, and customized for Digital Square. In addition to project-specific deliverables based on individual scopes of work, PATH will require applicants to provide, at minimum, a quarterly narrative and financial reports to support their work. For more information about the project lifecycle for the selected applicant(s), please review Digital Square's [investment process](#).

IV. Scope of Work and Deliverables

A. Scope of Work

Supplement contents:

We anticipate the contents of the supplement to include the following:

- One commentary.
- One to two methods papers (one will be generated by Digital Square).

- 5-7 papers that provide evidence of the health benefits and or cost-effectiveness for digital health interventions.¹
- Papers that provide data on the cost savings, efficiency gains, labor (time) savings and/or fraud reduction are also encouraged but will need the paper to tie these outcomes to health benefits via a theory of change, in support of the overall supplement focus.

Requirements to receive up to USD\$25,000 in funding to participate (up to four awards):

- The Digital health intervention you are evaluating is a Digital Square-supported [global good](#).
- You have one of the following:
 - Data on the direct relationship between the [global good](#) and the coverage of a proven effective health intervention.
 - A well-established link between the global good and coverage through peer review publications.²
- Data on how the global good has contributed to a change in coverage of a proven health intervention. Pre/post coverage data of the health intervention or a control group is preferred.
- Data must be from low or lower-middle income geographies as defined by the [World Bank](#).
- Data should not be older than 2018.
- Cost data on capital and operating costs is preferred but not required.
- Your organization has staff experienced with writing peer review publications. These staff either have a methodology for estimating health impact and costs or are comfortable working with PATH/Digital Square to adapt their methodology, which leverages LiST and the digital health TCO Tool. The LiST method can be found [in this paper](#), the TCO Tool is [here](#) and a formal methods paper for both will be circulated to authors in early Q2.
- Interest in generating health impact data for your work.
- Ability to meet Oxford Open Digital Health [author instructions](#). Inclusion of authors from low- and middle-income countries is preferred.
- Case studies may be considered for inclusion if there is a strong linkage to the overall project theme.

Draft timeline:

- Data analysis and draft writing of publications is anticipated to occur between April to June of 2023.
- Initial submission to Oxford Open Digital Health anticipated in August 2023.
- Peer review process is anticipated between August to November 2023.
- Publication is anticipated for December 2023 / January 2024.

Possible benefits of generating this data include:

- Fundraising
- Gaining country buy-in
- Employee retention / motivation
- Learning
- Assisting with strategic goals
- Contributing to the digital health ecosystem

¹ Example publication can be found here - <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/authors?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0258354>

² Coverage is defined as the number of people who received an intervention divided by the number of people who need the intervention.

Risks

Participation in this supplement does not guarantee publication in Oxford Open Digital Health. Manuscripts will be reviewed by two independent experts. Reviewers will recommend to accept, accept with revision, or reject submissions. More on the peer review process can be found [here](#).

B. Deliverables

The deliverables of this RFA should, at minimum, include:

Deliverable Description	Due
Written draft manuscript consistent with Oxford Open Digital Health's instructions .	June 30, 2023
Revised manuscript based on Digital Square's comments to Oxford Open Digital Health.	July 31, 2023
Responses to reviewer feedback as needed (may require two or more rounds of feedback).	November 30, 2023 (estimated)

V. Application Requirements – Technical

Provide a narrative on your technical approach to accomplish objective(s) identified in the Scope of Work identified in section IV, including:

Organization/Consortium overview, including:

- Overview of your organization / consortium.

Global Good(s) / Technologies under review in the research, including:

- List of the global goods / technologies that are being used and evaluated in the research.

Abstract describing the research (no more than 500 words), including:

- Background.
- Methodology (data sources, time frame, measurable outcomes, analysis methods).
- Expected results (what health benefits will you measure/model and in what populations).
- Implications (or anticipated implications).

Authors (who is doing the research), including:

- Previous experience with publications and research.
- Name and qualifications.
- Inclusion of authors from low- and middle-income countries is preferred.

Key staff members, including:

- Please complete the staffing table outlined below.

Name	Title	Qualifications

Data that you plan to utilize, including:

- Describe the data / information you have / plan to utilize / how to obtain.
- What permissions do you have / will be seeking to undertake this.

Workplan, including:

- Paragraph description of the required steps to generate the deliverables within the expected timeline (see below).

Activity	Months									
	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct	Nov.	Dec.	
Data analysis and draft writing of publication										
Revision based on Digital Square feedback and submission to journal										
Iteration based on peer reviewer feedback										
Possible publication										

Payment and deliverable schedule

- *insert payment and deliverable table information.*

VI. Application Requirements – Cost

The estimated size of award for this application is up to US\$100,000 for up to four subawards for up to ten months. This figure is just an estimate provided for informational purposes to the applicants and is not binding.

Digital Square will evaluate the quoted prices and hourly rates. No analysis will be performed on quotes determined as non-responsive or if the technical quote is determined to be technically unacceptable. The price/business evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the quoted utility-based solution and proposed labor categories, their rates, and evaluation matrix. Digital Square will conduct an analysis to determine if all quoted prices are reasonable. This evaluation is conducted with the expectation of adequate price competition and will rely heavily on market forces to determine whether proposed prices are fair and reasonable. The comparison of proposed prices in response to this solicitation is the preferred and intended price analysis technique.

Digital Square will also compare the proposed prices to historical prices paid for the same or similar services and the independent government cost estimate. Other techniques and procedures may be used to ensure quoted prices are fair and reasonable. A cost realism analysis will be performed to determine whether the quoted level of effort is realistic for the work to be performed, reflects a clear understanding of the requirements, and is consistent with the unique methods of performance set forth in the company's technical quote.

A. Required Elements

The Cost Application must include a budget narrative, detailing the cost and cost basis applied in generating the application and describe the reasonableness of each proposed cost. The Cost Application must also include a detailed budget that is itemized along the cost categories defined below. This detailed budget should be submitted in an unlocked Excel spreadsheet and must include the following information:

- Personnel at minimum. The budget should detail:
 - All proposed staff/positions with daily rates.
 - Total number of days in total level of effort according to key staff.
- Itemization of all other costs (e.g., agency costs, service tax, administrative costs, supplies, etc.).
- Estimated schedule of other anticipated expenses (travel, subawardee resources, supplies, outside resources, etc.).
- Details of all subcontracting out of work. This includes proposed consultants as well as proposed subawardees.

Description	Total Cost (USD)
Personnel	
Fringe Benefits	
Travel	
Equipment	
Supplies	
Other Direct Costs	
Contractual	
Consultants	
Total Direct Costs	
Indirect Costs	
Total Project Costs	

B. Special Note on Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment

Procurement of telecommunications or video surveillance equipment and services produced by Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision

Digital Technology Company, and Dahua Technology Company, or any other company, including affiliates and subsidiaries, owned or controlled by the People's Republic of China is strictly prohibited under this solicitation and applications will not be funded.

C. Special Note on Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are overhead expenses incurred as a result of the project but not easily identified with the project's activities. These are administrative expenses that are related to overall general operations and are shared among projects and/or functions. Examples include executive oversight, existing facilities costs, accounting, grants management, legal expenses, utilities, and technology support.

If your organization includes indirect costs in the budget, you must provide a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement with the US Government or three years of audited financials to PATH to validate the use of this rate.

VII. Additional Attachments, optional

1. Third-tier Subawardee Agreements, Contracts or Commitment. Offerors may submit any agreements, contracts, or commitments it has with any potential third tier- subawardee.

VIII. Application Evaluation Criteria

The following is a list of significant criteria against which applications will be assessed.

Area	Points
<p>Technical approach, tool and domain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of your organization / consortium • List of the global goods / technologies that are being used and evaluated in the research. • Methodology (data sources, time frame, measurable outcomes, analysis methods) • Expected results (what health benefits will you measure/model and in what populations) • Implications (or anticipated implications) 	<p><i>50 points</i></p>
<p>Budget and administrative compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget format, documents requested etc. • Cost and cost drivers 	<p><i>20 points</i></p>
<p>Research experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with publications and research • Name and qualifications 	<p><i>30 points</i></p>

Note: PATH reserves the right to include additional criteria.

IX. Instructions and Deadlines for Responding

A. PATH contacts

Program Contact: Maria Soc, msoc@path.org

Procurement Contact: Teresa Gingras, tgingras@path.org

Technical Lead Contact: Carl Fourie, cfourie@path.org

B. Applications Due:

Completed applications must be submitted via WizeHive.

All applications should be entered into the [WizeHive platform](#). Any questions related to the platform should be addressed to Maria Soc (msoc@path.org). The process for submission is as follows:

- Navigate to the submission portal and click “Sign Up” or “Log In.”
- Once logged in, click “Create a Profile to Get Started.” This step must be completed before you can proceed with the application.
- Click the “Get Started” box (marked with a “+”).
- You can now access and edit the required form(s).
- All forms can be saved in draft prior to submission.
- Once the required form(s) are completed, the “Submit” button will be green and clickable. Once submitted, forms cannot be edited.

We advise that you pay close attention to upload instructions for file types. We will not accept responsibility for resolving technical transmission problems with applications.

C. Fact-Finding Q&A

During the RFA submission process, questions will be accepted until March 27, 2023, to address any questions related to RFA # 2023-011. All submitters are welcome to submit questions, and the finalized Q&A session will be posted on the solicitation pages of the Digital Square website and wiki found at <https://digitalsquare.org/solicitations>, and <https://wiki.digitalsquare.io/index.php/Solicitations>, respectively, as well as in the submission portal. Submission of fact-finding Q&A will not affect the scoring of applications.

Asking a question

Participants are encouraged to submit questions via email to msoc@path.org. These questions must be received no later than March 27. Answers to the fact-finding questions will be posted no later than March 31.

D. Conclusion of Process

Applicants will be notified of the decision by April 20. Final award is subject to the terms and conditions included in this solicitation, as well as successful final negotiations of all applicable terms and conditions affecting this work.

X. Terms and Conditions of the Solicitation

A. Notice of non-binding solicitation

PATH reserves the right to reject any and all bids received in response to this solicitation and is in no way bound to accept any application. The applications submitted through this RFA process are the responsibility of the submitter and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States Government, or PATH.

B. Confidentiality

All information provided by PATH as part of this solicitation must be treated as confidential. In the event that any information is inappropriately released, PATH will seek appropriate remedies as allowed.

Applications, discussions, and all information received in response to this solicitation will be held as strictly confidential, except as otherwise noted.

C. Conflict of interest disclosure

Suppliers bidding on PATH business must disclose, to the procurement contact listed in the RFA, any actual or potential conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest could be present if; there is a personal relationship with a PATH staff member that constitutes a significant financial interest, board memberships, other employment, and ownership or rights in intellectual property that may be in conflict with the supplier's obligations to PATH. Suppliers and PATH are protected when actual or perceived conflicts of interest are disclosed. When necessary, PATH will create a management plan that provides mitigation of potential risks presented by the disclosed conflict of interest.

D. Communication

All communications regarding this solicitation shall be directed to appropriate parties at PATH indicated in Section IX. A. Contacting third parties involved in the project, the review panel, or any other party may be considered a conflict of interest and could result in disqualification of the application.

E. Acceptance

Acceptance of an application does not imply acceptance of its terms and conditions. PATH reserves the option to negotiate on the final terms and conditions. We additionally reserve the right to negotiate the substance of the finalists' applications, as well as the option of accepting partial components of an application if appropriate.

F. Right to final negotiations

PATH reserves the option to negotiate on the final costs and final scope of work, and also reserves the option to limit or include third parties at PATH's sole and full discretion in such negotiations.

G. Third-party limitations

PATH does not represent, warrant, or act as an agent for any third party as a result of this solicitation. This solicitation does not authorize any third party to bind or commit PATH in any way without our express written consent.

H. Application Validity

Applications submitted under this request shall be valid for 90 days from the date the application is due. The validity period shall be stated in the application submitted to PATH.