

## Stepping Strong Innovator Award FAQ

### ***What topics is the Stepping Strong Center interested in funding for the 2022 Innovator Awards?***

In addition to the focus areas outlined in the [Innovator Award Request for Applications](#), applicants can review these sources to learn more about the center's mission, programs, and research priorities:

- [Stepping Strong website](#)
- [Stepping Strong annual reports](#)
- CDC's injury prevention Centers for Disease Control's [research priority topics](#)
- The 2016 NASEM report, "[A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury](#)"

### ***Are you open to funding Innovator Award projects outside of the areas you have funded in prior years?***

Yes, any priority research area referenced in the sources listed above is of interest to the Stepping Strong Center. We encourage the submission of Letters of Intent (due June 2) describing related projects even if the center has not previously funded research on a similar topic.

### ***Is this grant program open to only Brigham investigators?***

The principal investigator can be based outside the Brigham. However, each proposal must have at least one collaborator with a primary affiliation at a Mass General Brigham hospital or research institute.

### ***I am not affiliated with Mass General Brigham but conduct research in one of the areas that the Stepping Strong Center funds? Can I apply for the Innovator Awards?***

Yes, the center will accept applications from other institutions provided there is at least one named collaborator with a primary affiliation at a Mass General Brigham hospital or research institute.

### ***Am I required to have research collaborators for my application?***

The Stepping Strong Center strongly prioritizes supporting research being carried out by multidisciplinary teams.

### ***Am I required to include collaborators from other institutions as part of my application?***

The inclusion of collaborators from institutions other than that at which the principal investigator is based is required *only* when the principal investigator is *not* based at a Mass General Brigham hospital or research institute.

### ***Can individuals who do not have an academic appointment or affiliation apply for an Innovator Award?***

Yes, the center accepts applications from principal investigators who do not have an academic appointment or affiliation, including nurses, allied health and other health care professionals, post-doctoral fellows, engineers, and professionals employed at private research laboratories and biotechnology companies, provided at least one collaborator has a primary affiliation at a Mass General Brigham hospital or research institute.

### ***What can the grant funds from a Stepping Strong Innovator Award be used for?***

Innovator Award funds can be used to support personnel, equipment, supplies, travel, and indirect costs (capped at 15% of direct costs). Subcontracts to institutions outside of Mass General Brigham are permitted; however, the \$100,000 award is inclusive of **all** expenses, including direct and indirect costs

at subcontracting institutions **and** MGB indirect costs taken on subcontracts to outside vendors.

***How does the Stepping Strong Center protect the intellectual property of its applicants?***

Applications received from research teams at Mass General Brigham will be reviewed by Mass General Brigham Innovation to ensure any intellectual property is withheld from external reviewers.

***To learn more or to submit inquiries:***

1. Email [steppingstrong@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:steppingstrong@bwh.harvard.edu)
2. Visit the [Stepping Strong Innovator Awards website](#)