

YNHHS Innovation Award Submission Guide

Overview

Welcome to the **YNHHS Innovation Award Proposal Submission Guide!** Before you begin, please review the key expectations for your submission. Your proposal should:

1. Clearly define the healthcare challenge you aim to solve.
2. Describe how your solution works and its stage of development.
3. Explain how your approach is novel compared to existing solutions.
4. Provide a clear plan for validation, impact measurement, and use of funding.

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of clinical, scientific, business, and financial experts, so ensure your descriptions are clear to a diverse audience. Only **non-confidential** information should be included.

Legal & Ethical Considerations

As applicable, please:

Explain how you will use and protect patient data. Include any safeguards or protocols to ensure ethical and responsible use of data in developing AI solutions and tools.

- **Describe any IRB (Institutional Review Board) requirements** if your solution impacts patient care.
- **Detail compliance with relevant regulations** (e.g., HIPAA, GDPR) where applicable.

Competition Phases and Selection Criteria

Submissions will undergo a multi-phase review process, namely:

I: Proposal Submission

II: Semi-Finalist Selection

III: Pitch Off Competition

At each stage, submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Enterprise Priorities and Vision (15%)**
Alignment with YNHHS strategic goals
2. **Unmet Need (15%)**
Significance and clarity of the clinical or operational problem
3. **Speed to Value (20%)**
Likelihood of successful implementation within YNHHS (integration, compliance, readiness).
4. **Novelty (10%)**
Degree of innovation and differentiation from existing solutions.
5. **Scalability and Sustainability (10%)**
Potential for broad adoption and long-term impact.
6. **Team Strength (20%)**
Expertise, diversity of roles, and operational alignment.
7. **Equity & Patient Centeredness (10%)**
Inclusivity and accessibility for diverse patient populations

I: Proposal Submission Details

Step 1: Prepare your three-four page Proposal Submission

- We recommend drafting your proposal submission in a separate document (e.g., Word) and converting to a .pdf file **before emailing** your final three-to-four page submission.
 - The table below provides a summary of the fields required for submission.
- **Formatting and Content**
 - Total Proposal Submission Length: Maximum 4 pages
 - Spacing: Single Line Spacing; Margins no smaller than 0.5"
 - Font Type & Size: Arial 11pt

Category	Section	Instructions
Background and Rationale	Unmet Clinical Need	Clearly explain the healthcare problem your solution addresses. Why is this issue important?
	Solution Description	Briefly describe your solution, its key features, and how it differentiates itself.
	Innovation & Novelty	What makes your solution unique from existing approaches? How does it compare to other competitive solutions?
Methods and Metrics	Target Users	Who are the intended users of your solution? Have you gathered feedback from them?
	Progress & Traction	What progress have you made so far? Include prototypes, partnerships, pilots, or any early adopter(s) and associated data.
	Engagement with Innovation Centers	Have you worked with any innovation programs or incubators before? If so, which ones?
	Validation Plan	Describe your current stage of development. What initial tests or pilots have been conducted? How will you validate effectiveness?
Funding	Impact Measurement	How will you measure success? Define key performance indicators (KPIs) and expected patient or operational outcomes.
	Funding Request	Provide a high-level budget outlining how you will allocate the requested funds. (Note: The top award maximum is \$50,000.)
	Funding Milestone	How will the funds from the YNHSS Innovation Awards help advance your project? Define clear milestone(s) this funding will support.
	Additional Funding	List any other funding sources supporting this project.

Step 2: Email Your Proposal Submission

- Send your final proposal submission (in PDF format) to innovation@ynhh.org
- **Deadline: March 31 Midnight EST**

Step 3: Confirmation of Receipt

- You will receive an **email confirmation** from the YNHHS Center for Health Care Innovation team (CHI) confirming receipt of your submission.

II: Semi-Finalist Selection Details

1. Evaluation of Proposals

- A multidisciplinary panel will review all proposals against the **Selection Criteria**.

2. Notification of Semi-Finalists

- Semi-Finalists will be selected and notified via email by end of day **April 10**
- You may receive **feedback or additional questions** from reviewers.

3. Preparation for Pitch Off

- Semi-Finalists will be invited to the **Virtual Pitch Off Competition** (details below).

III: Pitch-Off Competition Details

1. Semi Finalists will be required to complete and submit the following:

- A full detail of team members including names, email addresses, role in project and affiliation within the system.
- Final Pitch deck to be presented at the Virtual Pitch Competition
 - max 10 slides, PDF or PowerPoint format

2. Who Should Submit: Only semi-finalists that are **invited to proceed** to the Virtual Pitch off competition.

3. How to Submit: Access the Online Portal

- You will receive a **URL** and **password** from the Center for Health Care Innovation team.
- Enter the password to unlock and complete the **formal Pitch-off proposal** form.
- Attach final pitch deck

4. Pitch-Off Proposal Deadline

- The formal Pitch-off proposal form must be submitted to the online portal no later than **May 6, Midnight EST**.
- Late submissions will not be accepted.

5. Confirmation of Submission

- Upon submitting, you will receive a **confirmation email** along with a PDF copy of your application.
- If you do not receive confirmation within 24 hours, contact innovation@ynhh.org.

6. Presentation Requirements

- Each team will be required to share a concise pitch deck (max 10 slides, PDF or PowerPoint format).
- Ensure your deck clearly outlines your solution, impact, and implementation plan.
- For guidance, refer to the [Canaan Entrepreneur Pitch Workbook](#) for best practices.
- Cover the key elements of your solution, including:
 - Problem Statement & Unmet Need
 - Innovation & Competitive Differentiation
 - Clinical and/or Market Impact & Business Model
 - Progress to Date & Future Roadmap
 - Be prepared to address questions on technical feasibility, regulatory considerations, finances, and scalability.

7. Mentorship Sessions

- The CHI team will offer two 30-minute mentorship sessions to each Semi-Finalist team in preparation for the Virtual Pitch Off Competition.
- These sessions will run from April 13 until May 6, 2026, and can be booked by emailing innovation@ynhh.org.
- These sessions aim to provide feedback and help refine the quality and delivery of your pitch.

IV: Pitch Off Competition Details

1. Event Date and Format

- The Pitch Off Competition will be held virtually on May 8 (more details to follow).
- Semi-Finalist teams will present to an independent panel of judges.

2. Presentation and Q&A

- Each team will have **5 minutes** to present, followed by **2 minutes** of Q&A from the judges.
- Ensure your presentation is concise and highlights the most critical aspects of your solution.

3. Judging and Awards

- Presentations will be evaluated against the Selection Criteria (Unmet Need, Technical Feasibility, Novelty, Scalability and Sustainability, and Proposal/Team Strength).
- Winners will be selected and notified on May 11.
- Winners will be celebrated at an exclusive event at the Yale Innovation Summit on May 27.
- Award recipients will receive funding and/or partnership opportunities as outlined in the competition rules.

4. Post-Competition Follow-Up

- All Pitch Off participants will receive feedback or recommendations for future development.
- Winning teams will work with their respective business offices and the YNHHS Center for Health Care Innovation (CHI) to finalize funding arrangements, project timelines, and milestone tracking.

Additional Assistance email innovation@ynhh.org