EMORY HEALTHCARE

# Innovation Challenge

Request for Applications (RFA) – FY26

**Overview**

Emory Healthcare invites faculty, staff, and collaborators to submit proposals for the Emory Healthcare Innovation Challenge. This initiative seeks bold, transformative ideas that advance Emory Healthcare's mission to provide exceptional care, empower its people, and ensure long-term fiscal strength. Selected projects will receive funding and institutional support to pilot or accelerate implementation of high-impact solutions across the health system.

**Application Window:**
**Opens:** June 2, 2025
**Closes:** June 23, 2025

**Application Requirements**

Applicants must submit two key documents:

**1. Executive Summary (Max 500 words)**

Provide a concise overview of your proposal that includes:

- A brief description of the gap or unmet needs to be addressed.
- An outline of your proposed solution.
- How the solution supports Emory Healthcare's strategic priorities.
- The expected impact and return on investment.
- Requested funding amount and high-level use of funds.
- How the project could generate intellectual property (IP) or know-how.

**2. Full Proposal (3–5 pages maximum, single-spaced)**

Please include the following sections:

**A. Background & Need**

- Describe the clinical, operational, or organizational problem you are addressing.
- Identify the gap in current practices or outcomes and why addressing this gap matters.

**B. Proposed Solution**

- Provide a detailed description of your proposed solution and its value proposition, including its design, development stage, and how it improves existing alternatives.
- Indicate whether the solution is technology-based, process-based, or service-based.
- Describe what Emory Digital resources will be needed (e.g. integration and implementation support, data extraction, security support, etc.).
- How the work product could generate commercial viability and/or intellectual property for Emory.

**C. Strategic Alignment**
Demonstrate how your proposed solution advances one or more of Emory Healthcare's strategic priorities:

- **Delivering the Best Care**: Enhancing care quality, safety, access, or experience.
- **Our People & Processes**: Improving efficiency, workflows, workforce well-being, or talent development.
- **Strengthening Fiscal Growth**: Reducing costs, generating new revenue, or increasing operational ROI.

**D. Implementation Timeline**
Outline key milestones and phases of implementation over a defined timeline (e.g., 3, 6, or 12 months).

**E. Evaluation & Metrics**
Identify how success will be measured. Include both qualitative and quantitative indicators.

- Clinical outcomes.
- Operational improvements.
- Staff and patient satisfaction.
- Financial or cost metrics.

**F. ROI Plan**
Provide a return on investment (ROI) pro forma and plan outlining the expected financial benefits of your solution. Include:

- Cost savings, increased revenue potential, decreased human resources (HR) needs, or other economic value.
- Timeline for when ROI will be realized.
- Scalability and potential for broader application within Emory Healthcare (include financial impact of scaling beyond the pilot).

**G. Budget & Use of Funds**
Include a clear, itemized budget. Indicate:

- Total funding requested.
- Specific uses of funds (e.g., staffing, technology, implementation costs, external services).
- Matching contributions (if any from department or operational unit).

**Eligibility**
Open to Emory Healthcare employees and Emory University faculty/staff collaborating with Emory Healthcare.

**Submission Process & Deadline**
All proposals must be submitted by June 23, 2025.

Submissions will be reviewed by an internal review committee composed of clinical, operational, digital, and innovation leaders.

**Evaluation Criteria**
Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Strategic alignment
- Innovation and feasibility
- Impact and scalability
- ROI potential
- Clarity and completeness of the application
- Potential for IP or know-how generation

**Award and Support**
Selected proposals will receive financial support and access to internal advisory and implementation resources. Award amounts will vary based on project scope and potential impact.