

RSSDI Diabetes Digital Health Grant 2025 – Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility Related

Q. Who is eligible for the grant?

A. RSSDI members, digital tech companies/startups, and Tech Universities/Institutes in India are eligible to apply.

Q. Are startups eligible to apply?

A. Yes

Q. Are public or nonprofit organizations eligible to apply?

A. Yes

Q. Are faculty from National institutes such as IISc, eligible to apply?

A. Yes

Q. Are private and for-profit organizations eligible to apply?

A. Yes

Q. Who is technology partner?

A. Digital tech companies/startups, Healthcare IT companies, Insurance companies, Tech Universities/Institutes etc.

Q. Is collaboration with a NASSCOM affiliate organization mandatory?

A. All tech health organizations can apply. All proposals will be evaluated equally.

Q. Will my eligibility will be affected if I don't have a diabetologist or health tech partner?

A. Please apply and we will provide support in finding a diabetologist or health tech partner.

Q. As a technology partner, am I eligible to submit a proposal in partnership with a non-RSSDI member diabetologist?

A. The diabetologist can become RSSDI member or we can provide support in finding an RSSDI member.

Q: Are only ICMR-validated or approved technologies eligible, or are early-stage/nascent technologies also eligible?

A. We will need more details to decide. Please apply.

Q. Is there a limit on number of Co-Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators?

A. There is no limit. Relevant partners can be added.

Q. Is there any participation fee?

A. There is no participation, application, or other fees to apply.

Themes Related

Q. What themes are eligible?

A. Proposals which involve use of Digital Health tools (incl. AI/ML/LLM based solutions) or development of Digital Health tools will be considered for funding. Following are examples of eligible themes:

- Development and innovative use of tools for diabetes prevention and management, behaviour change and compliance using digital tools
- Development and use of digital solutions that ease patient data entry for clinicians including AI/ML/LLMs
- Digital innovations which increase diabetes care access to rural, remote and economically disadvantaged sections
- Technology integration (e.g., CMS, EMR, HIMS, mobile health apps, etc), and medical devices (CGMs, SMBGs, Insulin pumps etc) and wearables for improved diabetes care and management
- Creation of diabetes data sharing platforms and diabetes registries for research and improved care

Q. What themes are ineligible?

A. Proposals which do not use digital tools, and digitized data will not be considered. Examples of proposals which are outside the scope for funding:

- Exploratory research to understand prevalence
- Clinical Trials/repurposing of drugs
- Development of medical devices
- Distribution of medicines or consumables
- Understanding molecular basis and biological mechanisms
- Correlation studies
- Testing of blood or other body fluid samples

Q. Are there any specific sub-topics that are priority under the grant.

A. All digital health proposals related to diabetology will be considered.

Q. Would AI Based screening be considered?

A. We will need more details to decide. Please apply.

Proposal duration and Template Related

Q. What is expected project duration?

A. Desired project duration is up to 12 months.

Q. Is there a template for project proposal?

A. There is no fixed template. Applicants are advised to keep the proposal concise and avoid lengthy proposals. Proposal may include following items:

1. Proposal: Project Title, Names of Principal Investigator and Co-investigator(s) with names of affiliated organizations of Affiliation, Problem Statement and how digital tools / technology will be used to solve the problem, Objective(s) of the proposal, Methodology, Work plan with timelines and milestones, Expected outcomes and potential impact on stakeholders, Any support that is needed from RSSDI, Bibliography / References.

2. Budget: Equipment & Software, Personnel, Travel, Consumables, Institute overheads, Miscellaneous.
3. Resumes: Affiliations, experience, past projects and publications
4. Letters of support (for proposals submitted via organizations/institutions): Letter of Institutional/organization Support for proposal activity.

Q. Is there a template for the letter of support?

A. Template may include:

"This is to certify that <name of institute> is fully aware of and supports the proposal <title> submitted by <name of investigator> who is affiliated with our institute as <designation, department>. We understand that this proposal is being submitted for considerations for the RSSDI Diabetes Digital Health Grant program. We endorse this project and recognize its relevance to integrated diabetes care using digital technology.

We wish the team success in this important initiative and confirm our full institutional support."

Number of Grants and Amount of Grant related

Q. Who will provide funding for the proposals?

A. Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (www.rssdi.in) will provide funding for the selected proposals.

Q. Can I submit multiple proposals?

A. Yes, multiple proposals can be submitted.

Q. My proposal requires less than INR 12.5 lakhs, can I submit a proposal?

A. Yes, such proposals can be submitted. Proposals with realistic budgets will be considered favourably.

Q. My proposal requires much more funding than INR 12.5 Lakhs, should I submit a proposal?

A. We will fund up to INR 12.5 lakhs per proposal. Proposals requiring more than INR 12.5 lakhs will need to demonstrate how the balance funding will be bridged. We encourage you to apply to other agencies for the balance funding needs. Proposals with realistic budgets will be considered favourably.

Q. What budget components are expected in the proposal?

A. Budget can be divided in heads such as: Equipment and Software, Personnel, Travel, Consumables, Institute overheads, Miscellaneous.

Q. Are there any restrictions on budget in certain heads?

A. Budget for Institute overheads and Miscellaneous cannot be more than 10% each of the total budget. Personnel on government salary or full-time paid employees of private organizations cannot be paid salary/remuneration/honorarium from the grant.

Q. My organization has rules for more than 10% of project cost as overhead. What should I do?

A. Please inform your organization that overheads cannot be more than 10% of the total budget.

Q. Can investigators receive salary or honorarium from the grant?

A. Full-time employed personnel and government employees are not eligible to receive honorarium or remuneration or salary from the grant irrespective of the naming of such remuneration.

Q. When will I get funds and what will be the duration of funding?

A. Selected applicants will receive eligible amounts up to INR 12.5 Lakhs. This will be paid out in 2 Tranches – Tranche 1 (50%) within one month of being selected, Tranche 2 (50%) within one month of completing Tranche 1 milestones. The Tranche 1 milestone will be mutually agreed as part of the proposal selection process.

Q. By when are the tranche 1 milestones expected to be completed?

A. About 6 months

Q. Will the disbursement be made to all partners individually?

A. From RSSDI, all the funds will be disbursed only to the RSSDI Primary member. The RSSDI Primary member can share the funds in any proportion with partners/collaborators for the proposal, as per terms outlined in the proposal.

Timeline and Selection related

Q. My proposal will not be ready by the deadline. Can I submit later?

A. Proposals received after the specified deadline may not be considered.

Q. What will be the selection process and timeline?

A. Proposals will be reviewed by the Research Committee of RSSDI as per the following timelines.

- Q&A session to provide clarifications: June 26, 2025
- Last date to submit proposals: July 18, 2025
- Intimation to shortlisted proposals: by August 14, 2025
- Announcement of grantee(s): by Sept 15, 2025
- Signing of agreements and release of tranche 1 funds: by Sept 30, 2025
- Project commencement: Oct 1, 2025

Q. What will be the selection criteria for funding?

A. Proposals will be evaluated based on following main criteria

- Relevance to digital health themes
- Extent of clinical impact
- Scalability of the solution
- Adequacy of fund for the proposed work

Intellectual Property Rights and Data Sharing related

Q. What is Intellectual Property Rights policy for the deliverables created from the grant?

A. The intellectual property rights in all the deliverables will belong to the investigators and their employer organizations as per their internal policies.

Q. We are a group of two or more investigators. How will Intellectual Property Rights be distributed among us?

A. The intellectual property rights in all the deliverables will belong to the investigators and their employer organizations as per their internal policies.

Q. What are KCDD/RSSDI's expectations from selected proposals — particularly regarding research outcomes, data sharing, developing any tool etc.?

A. There is no obligations towards KCDD/RSSDI towards sharing of research outcomes or data etc. The proposal investigators may independently establish mutual agreements between themselves.

Publication and Support related

Q. Will RSSDI support me in publishing?

A. All awardees are encouraged to submit their work to the RSSDI Journal IJDDC (<https://www.ijddc.org/>)

Q. How should I acknowledge the grant in publications?

A. RSSDI expects that the grant source be acknowledged in all publications and submissions made with regards to the research done with the grant with wordings such as “This project has been funded by grant from the Koita Centre for Digital Diabetology-Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (KCDD-RSSDI)”.

Q. Will KCDD/RSSDI promote the selected technology solution and help build a business?

A. The grant is meant to drive innovation and collaboration between RSSDI diabetologists and technology partners. Some of the support, in addition to grant amount, includes:

- Get easy access to diabetes clinical knowledge
- Get access to diabetes clinical data with consent
- Get exposure to vast network of RSSDI's 13,000 diabetologist members
- Develop and test proof of concept in diabetology
- Get access to other partners of KCDD-RSSDI in the ecosystem

Miscellaneous

Q. What is the role of NASSCOM?

A. RSSDI has established a partnership with NASSCOM with the aim of driving Digital and AI innovation in Diabetes care. Under the MOU, NASSCOM will help RSSDI engage with healthcare companies and startups affiliated with NASSCOM. All other aspects of the grant will be driven by RSSDI.

Q. How can one become an RSSDI member?

A. Please apply for RSSDI membership here <https://www.rssdi.in/newwebsite/register.php>

Q. Whom should I contact for clarifications?

A. Contact Sajan Bhandarkar at sajan.bhandarkar@rssdi.in or +91-84839 41993