

ARLife Small Grants program

Opportunity Announcement – Application Instructions

May 21, 2026

The UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI) invites applications from full-time faculty to participate in the **ARLife small grants program**. ARLife is funded by TRI through the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA). **ARLife facilitates access to disparate “real world data” resources that are not commonly combined for data-oriented health services research.** ARLife’s secure data sharing platform enables individual level linkage of electronic health record (EHR) data from EPIC from Arkansas Childrens Hospital (ACH) and/or UAMS with data assets at the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) under the Arkansas Healthcare Transformation Initiative (HTI). The HTI contains a mandatory All-Payer Claims Dataset (APCD) including enrollment, medical claims and pharmacy claims from Medicaid, Medicare, commercial insurance plans, and publicly funded self-insured plans. Other available data include individual level linked birth and death certificates, the Arkansas Cancer Registry, and uninsured emergency department and hospital discharge data. Data are at the individual level, deidentified, and longitudinally available since 2013. All projects will require appropriate approvals, IRB review, and required data elements.

For this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), TRI seeks proposals that will use this new resource to address questions seeking to identify healthcare solutions to health challenges in Arkansas. Examples of projects that could be conducted using ARLife include (but are not limited to):

- 1) Projects that examine early life influences on later adult health outcomes or health care utilization
- 2) Projects that examine potential gaps in medical care associated with life-stage transitions of care (e.g., adolescents aging into adult care with condition-specific needs)
- 3) Projects that require maternal-child linkage (e.g., maternal factors affecting children’s health)
- 4) Projects that examine disease burdens over various stages of life
- 5) Projects focusing on complex conditions that require high levels of care coordination

Priority will be given to the proposal (s) that align with the goals of the program and have the potential for future external funding based on the findings of the ARLife award.

Investigators with full time UAMS faculty appointments are invited to submit one-page proposals that describe 1) the major research question; 2) health care challenge to be addressed; 3) a brief background summary referencing 3-5 manuscripts relevant to the research project; 4) relevance of the research to future care management of the population and potential future potential funding opportunities. A study budget is not required.

Proposals will be reviewed by a study section with expertise in health services research. Selected proposals will be further developed in collaboration with TRI and ACHI using a team science approach. Each funded project will be completed within one year of account activation. The award will cover between 5 and 10% of the faculty member’s effort for 6 to 12 months (subject to NIH salary cap rates) and based on the complexity of the project. Awardee expectations include: a) working with TRI faculty and staff to submit the proposal for IRB approval using a recent template; b) participation in 1-2 one-hour monthly team meetings; c) submission of one abstract to a national meeting; d) presentation of the project at TRI’s annual Research Day; and e) publication of one manuscript. All activities will be supported by TRI and ACHI faculty/staff working with the small grant awardee recipients. The program will be sponsored annually; between 1 and 2 applicant projects will be funded each year.

Webinars to review example projects, program goals and expectations will be offered on **June 8, 2026, at noon** and **June 16, 2026, at 4 pm**. Please [click here to register to attend a session](#). Webinars will be recorded. Applicants should include a narrative proposal as described above and a current NIH biosketch submitted no later than 5:00 CST on Thursday, July 9, 2026. Proposals should be submitted online through the [TRI ARLife submission portal](#) (or copy and paste this address: <https://redcap.link/sgu8706w>).

Selected investigators will be notified by Thursday, July 30, 2026. An overview of the program is provided below.

Month	Activity
1-2	Project refinement; submission of protocol to IRB; CITI training if not current
3-4	Completion of data sharing documents
4-5	Refining study cohort; development of data analysis plan
5	Data harmonization; assignment of data tokens; data transfer for analysis
6-9	Data analysis
9-12	Abstract and manuscript submission

Further questions about the program should be directed to Paul Duguid, TRI Director of Research Programs (pduguid@uams.edu).