

Open Data Micro-Grant Call (Health Equity Award)

Open Data Micro-Grants for Dataset Creation

Background & Motivation

As part of the Health Equity Award, we are launching a **Micro-Grant program** to support the creation of **high-quality, publicly available open datasets** in medical imaging and clinical AI.

These grants are intended as **financial support for data preparation, curation, annotation, and public release**, with a specific focus on enabling datasets that improve **diversity, representation, and health equity** in medical AI research.

Important: In line with the Health Equity Award description, **these grants are not intended for travel**. Funding is strictly for work related to **data collection, preparation, annotation, documentation, and public release**.

We plan to award up to **8 micro-grants**, distributed as:

- **4 Small grants:** USD 650 each
- **4 Large grants:** USD 1,200 each

Eligibility

Who can apply:

- Researchers from **academia, hospitals, or industry**
- Individuals or teams (one main applicant required)
- **Geographic eligibility:** No restrictions
- **Career stage:** No restrictions

Funding Conditions

- Applicants will be asked to **declare their intent** to submit the dataset paper.
- Funding will be **released only after submission of a paper** describing the dataset.

Dataset Requirements

To be eligible, proposed datasets must meet **all** of the following criteria:

1. **Public availability**
 - The dataset must be released publicly with **unrestricted access**
 - A license compatible with **Creative Commons (e.g., CC-BY, CC-BY-NC)** or equivalent


2. Originality

- The dataset must **not have been previously published**
- Extensions or derivations of existing public datasets are allowed (e.g., novel annotations, additional clinical variables, new imaging modalities)

3. Ethical approval

- Ethical approval must **already be obtained** for:
 - Data collection (if applicable)
 - Public data release
- Applicants must provide:
 - Name of the ethics board
 - Approval or project number
 - Preferably a document confirming approval

Application & Selection Process

- **Application format:** Single-step application
- **Submission platform:** Google Form <https://forms.gle/fVwzoTUv89m5oZcn9>
- **Dataset Description Template:**  Dataset Description Template
- **Review process:**
 - Applications will be reviewed **unblinded**
 - Decisions will be made by the four award organizers
- **Timeline:**
 - Proposal submission: February 22nd, 2026, 23.59 CET
 - Decision: March 01, 2026, 23.59 CET