

Eligibility Questionnaire

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Please respond to the questions below in order for the MLSC to determine if you are eligible for the Program. To read more on eligibility for Bits to Bytes, please visit [this link](#).

Are you representing a non-profit institution located within Massachusetts?

Are you working with at least one Company partner on the proposed project?

Has the Company committed to funding, at a minimum, the work of at least one data scientist fellow for the duration of the project proposal?

Is the proposed project covered by an existing Sponsored Research Agreement or similar agreement between the parties?

Non-Profit Representative Information

Applicant Name
(Organization):

First Name of Non-Profit
Applicant:

Last Name of Non-Profit
Applicant:

Title of Non-Profit
Applicant:

E-Mail of Non-Profit
Applicant:

Collaborators

Name

Role

E-mail

Phone

Organization

First name of Authorized
Representative:

Last name of Authorized
Representative:

Title of Authorized
Representative:

E-mail address of

Authorized
Representative:

Non-Profit Address

Business Address:

Business City/Town:

Business State:

Business Zip Code:

Business Country:

Business Telephone:

Business Fax:

Non-Profit Press Contact

Name of press contact:

Press contact e-mail
address:

Press contact telephone:

Project Team Members

Qualifications of the Management Team

In an effort to review all applications to the MLSC, based solely on the merits of the proposal and qualifications of the team, the MLSC will be blinding the identities of team members to our reviewers in our review process.

Non-profit PI Lead Name

This field will be blinded to reviewers.

Title and Department

Institution

Please describe the PI's relevant experience, without identifying him/her by name.

Ex. The PI has 10 years of experience administering and managing projects, several of which have included small clinical trials. The PI is the research group leader with expertise in the areas of XYZ...

Company Lead Name

This field will be blinded to reviewers.

Title and Department of Company Lead

Please describe the company lead's relevant experience, without identifying him/her by name. Recommended: 150 words.

Ex. The X at the company has more than 10 years of machine learning experience, where they advised X on production processes and methods of their portfolio. The lead has held previous roles and responsibilities as XYZ...

Please describe the company's role in the project proposal, without identifying members of the team by name.

Please upload the Biosketch/Resume (2 page maximum for each person) for all team members. If a position will need to be filled, upload a description of the qualifications of the candidate you will be seeking.

Note: You may upload multiple files for this field. Uploaded documents must be in .pdf file format.

Proposal to MLSC

Proposal Title:

Financial Considerations and Project Timeline

Total amount requested from MLSC

Typical grant requests for this program is up to \$750,000. If you are requesting more than \$750,000, please describe the compelling circumstances and provide sufficient information to justify this special request. The Center reserves the right to adjust the requested amount.

The recommended number of words for this answer is: 150 words.

Proposal Narrative

Narrative Upload

Please describe the Project your organization is proposing in narrative format (no longer than 10 pages with 11 pt. font). It must include the following sections:

1. Elevator Pitch (no more than 5 sentences)

Provide a short summary to describe your project, it's goal, and its value proposition to your Massachusetts institution and to the broader life sciences community in Massachusetts.

2. Description, Experimental Design, and Scope of the Project

Provide a detailed description of the project and the value of MLSC funding to enable or accelerate the execution of the project. As part of this description, you must address the criteria listed below:

General Criteria:

- Clinical and/or scientific problem the project seeks to address

- Current solution/state of the art and the proposed new improvement/technologies/know how
- Competitive advantage over other similar approaches in the field
- Potential impact and importance the project will have in moving the field forward

Experimental Design and Scope

- Detailed activities, including the experimental design, sample acquisition, data analysis, etc.
- Milestones and deliverables for the project
- Overview of tasks and goals in training the data scientist for the duration of the project
- Use of convergent approaches in healthcare discovery and innovation (proposed projects that involve multiple disciplines (e.g., engineering, biology, data sciences, etc.) will be favorable reviewed)
- Anticipated advancements/results achieved leveraging MLSC funding

3. Budget Summary

Please include a brief spreadsheet ([Sample Budget Table](#)) that outlines:

- Total costs to execute each milestone for this project
- Brief description of the activities for each milestone and where the work will be done
- The sources of funding for each cost (Ex. MLSC, non-profit partner, company name). Do not include any uncommitted sources of funding.
- The anticipated timeline to completion of each milestone

4. Data Handling

Bits to Bytes aims to support the generation and analysis of large datasets to answer pressing questions in the life sciences. Strong applicants will be able to demonstrate a commitment and ability to structure and share data in a standardized way. The MLSC acknowledges that data may be kept proprietary to the parties for a reasonable amount of time, but ultimately will need to be made available to the greater life sciences research community.

Please address the following:

- Plans to make all datasets (with accompanying metadata) generated using MLSC funds available to the public, including where the data will be stored, timing of upload, how access will be managed, and long-term sustainability
- Ability to structure and share the data in a standardized way

5. Value to the Community

This section should address, with specificity, how this project will benefit the larger community beyond the interests of the Applicant institution and its formal partners. Please address the following:

- If equipment is being requested, will researchers and companies outside of the Applicant institution have access to such equipment at a reasonable cost and timeline?
- Engagement of non-traditional life sciences companies (Ex. Google, Apple, IBM etc.)
- Contributions to the life sciences ecosystem, its culture of innovation, and economic development in Massachusetts
- Capacity of project to create and/or retain jobs in Massachusetts
- Capacity to train data scientists for careers in the life sciences

6. Partnerships

Describe any partnerships that will contribute to project execution or play a role post-project completion. Potential partnerships that could be described include: collaborations with other research institutions, companies, and/or foundations, etc. Each partnership should include: names; nature of the partnership; level and stage of partnership. Please provide examples of specific partners that have agreed to play a role in the project once it is completed. If there is any signed agreement between the Applicant and partner, that should be noted.

[Upload letter\(s\) of commitments from each Company partner outlining their financial and in-kind contributions \(reagents, supplies, in-kind salary support, etc.\). Reminder: At least one letter must include a commitment to pay the salary of at least one data scientist for the duration of the project.](#)

Uploaded documents must be in .pdf file format.

[Does your institution, or another institution in MA that you could access, already own the equipment you are requesting funds to](#)

purchase? If yes, why is the additional equipment necessary?

The recommended number of words for this answer is: 50 words.

Is this a new project the team will be pursuing together, or a follow up to a previous research endeavor? Please describe. **Note: Sponsored Research Agreements (or other such similar arrangements) executed before February 15, 2019, between the parties will not be considered as part of the letter of support for this program.**

The recommended number of words for this answer is: 75 words.

Signature

Authorized Representative Signature and Acceptance

I verify that I am authorized to commit my organization and to make this application on behalf of the organization. I certify that the above information is correct and that the statements made herein, including all attachments and exhibits, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. The submission of false information to the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is subject to prosecution under the False Claims Law at M.G.L. c. 12, sections 5A & 5O.

I understand that this Bits to Bytes Application may be disqualified if it does not contain all required information or if the Applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria required under the Program, and I further acknowledge and agree that the Agreement shall be executed in substantially the form provided in the Solicitation. I specifically acknowledge that all of the terms and conditions of the Solicitation are mandatory.

On behalf of the applicant, I understand and acknowledge that all materials submitted as part of this application are subject to disclosure under the Massachusetts Public Records Law. Furthermore, I understand and acknowledge that I have followed the procedures set forth in Section 9 of the Bits to Bytes Program Solicitation for any documents that I believe may be proprietary in nature and that may fall within the parameters of the MLSC's Trade Secrets Exemption; and that the MLSC's receipt of such documents does not represent a finding by the MLSC of the Supervisor of Public Records that such documents fall within the Trade Secrets Exemption.

I acknowledge and agree that the MLSC has sole discretion to determine which applicants receive benefits under the Program.