MassAITC LOI Applicant Webinar

November 4, 2026
4:00-5:0pm

MassAITC
Massachusetts AI and Technology Center
for Connected Care in Aging & Alzheimer's Disease

AITC | Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratory

Agenda for Today's Webinar

- **Introduction to MassAITC**
- The AITC Annual National Research Award Competition
- MassAITC Priority Topic Areas
- MassAITC Pilot Project Resources
- What Makes a Strong LOI?
- Q&A – Panel

The AITC Program

AI and Technology Centers (AITCs)

MassAITC
Massachusetts AI and Technology Center for Connected Care in Aging & Alzheimer's Disease

Stanford AITC
Precision Health & Intervention in Aging & ADRD

Johns Hopkins AI & Technology Collaboratory for Aging Research

UCLA Health

AITC-AIGE
Duke Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratory for Aging: Governance and Evaluation

Funder

NIH National Institute on Aging

Coordinating Center (AITCC)

AITC | Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratory

MassAITC Center Organization



MassAITC

Massachusetts AI and Technology Center for Connected Care in Aging & Alzheimer's Disease

MassAITC Introductions



Benjamin Marlin, PhD
Center Director



Deepak Ganesan, PhD
Center Director



Sudeshna Das, PhD
Center Director



Steven Arnold, MD
Center co-investigator



Michael Lepore, PhD
Director of Stakeholder & Community Relations



David Paquette, PhD
Executive Director & Associate Director of Research



Suzanne Rataj, MPH
Administrative Manager

MassAITC Mission

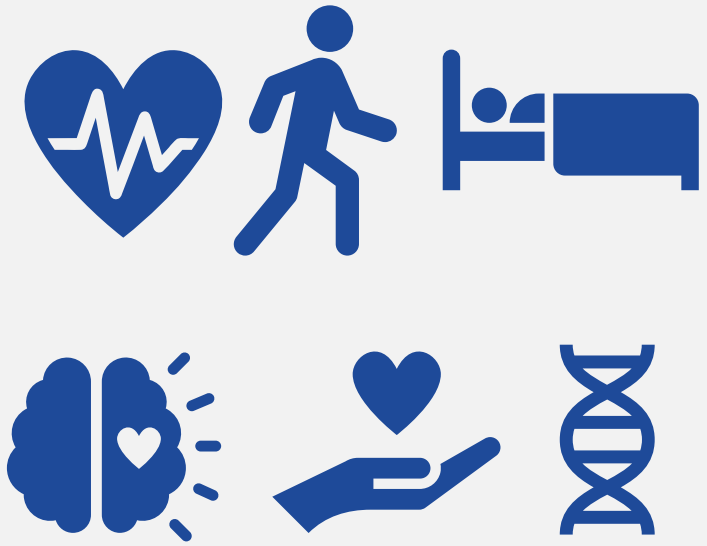
*To foster research and development of AI-enhanced technologies that support healthy **aging in place of choice** for older adults and individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers.*

MassAITC Pilot Research Focus Areas

Technology



Health



Setting



MassAITC Pilot Research Impact (2021-2026)

Research Funds Awarded

$12M

Pilot Projects Launched

53

Researchers Engaged

95

Industry Participation

57%

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Award Types

Non-clinical trial projects:



10-15
(Awards)



$200K
(Direct costs)



12-24mo
(Project Duration)

Clinical trial projects:



1
(Awards)



$300K
(Direct costs)



12-24mo
(Project Duration)



Program Requirement: At least 80% of funds must support AD/ADRD-related research

Guidelines for MassAITC AD/ADRD Research

- Leverages previously collected data from individuals with MCI, AD/ADRD, or their caregivers.
- Conducts prospective human subjects research with individuals with MCI, AD/ADRD, or their caregivers.
- Develops technology for use by individuals with MCI, AD/ADRD, or their caregivers.
- Conducts research to advance the fundamental understanding of the biology of AD/ADRD.

Program Eligibility Restrictions

- Non-U.S. organizations and non-U.S. components of U.S. organizations.
- Projects *solely* focused on market research, such as focus groups or surveys.
- Drug discovery, development, or target identification, except bioinformatics-based approaches.
- Incremental enhancements, new indications, or new patient populations for technologies or platforms already supported by NIH Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) funding.
- Substantially similar or overlapping applications submitted to more than one AITC.
- Projects that substantially overlap with work already funded by an AITC, including prior a2 pilot awards.

Award Competition Process and Timeline

Nov 16, 2026
LOI due

Dec 15, 2026
Invitations to submit full application

Jan 22, 2027
Full application due

Spring 2027
Finalists notified
Awards pending NIA approval

Summer 2027
Anticipated project start

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MassAITC Example Topic Areas for RFA



Topic 1: Development and implementation of novel device technologies (e.g., wearables, mobile and wireless sensors, including biosensors) and AI models to support monitoring and prediction of health, cognition, and overall well-being for older adults and individuals with AD/ADRD, with a focus on approaches that can be deployed outside of the clinic.

MindMics

BLUE IRIS LABS

butlr

University of Pittsburgh

Carnegie Mellon University

MassAITC Example Topic Areas for RFA



Topic 2: Development and implementation of AI-enhanced devices and apps (e.g., smart glasses, mobile devices, robotics, and AI agents) for supporting memory, cognition, communication, mobility, and activities of daily living.

obi

Carnegie Mellon University ROBOTICS INSTITUTE

ihmc FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN & MACHINE COGNITION

UCLA

THE BABEL GROUP

voiceitt

ForesightCares

M | ISR d3c

UCLA

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

MassAITC Example Topic Areas for RFA



Topic 3: Development and implementation of AI-enhanced tools for use by formal and informal caregivers of older adults and individuals with AD/ADRD, such as virtual assistants, care coordination and navigation tools, decision support tools, real-time care coaching and training tools, fraud and financial exploit-ation detection tools, and emotional/social support tools

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
OSF HealthCare
Socratic Sciences Inc.
University of Maryland
Kinto
Massachusetts General Hospital
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham
Harvard University

MassAITC Example Topic Areas for RFA



Topic 4: Development and implementation of novel device technologies and AI models that enable the early detection of cognitive decline and/or the identification of specific dementia subtypes, with a focus on approaches that can be deployed outside of the clinic

SONDE

Massachusetts General Hospital
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

Stanford University

UC San Diego School of Medicine

UCLA

ki elements

KeyWise AI

MGH Institute of Health Professions

SPaN-AD

Athinoula A. Martinos Center For Biomedical Imaging

vivoSENSE

University of Massachusetts Amherst

MassAITC Example Topic Areas for RFA



Topic 5: Development and application of foundation models and other AI approaches to advance the fundamental understanding of the biology of aging, including approaches that advance the mechanistic understanding of AD/ADRD

Probius

Massachusetts General Hospital
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

Operant BioPharma

ALLEN INSTITUTE

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

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MassAITC Mentor Network



MassAITC

Massachusetts AI and Technology Center
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MassAITC Internal Resources

University of Massachusetts Amherst

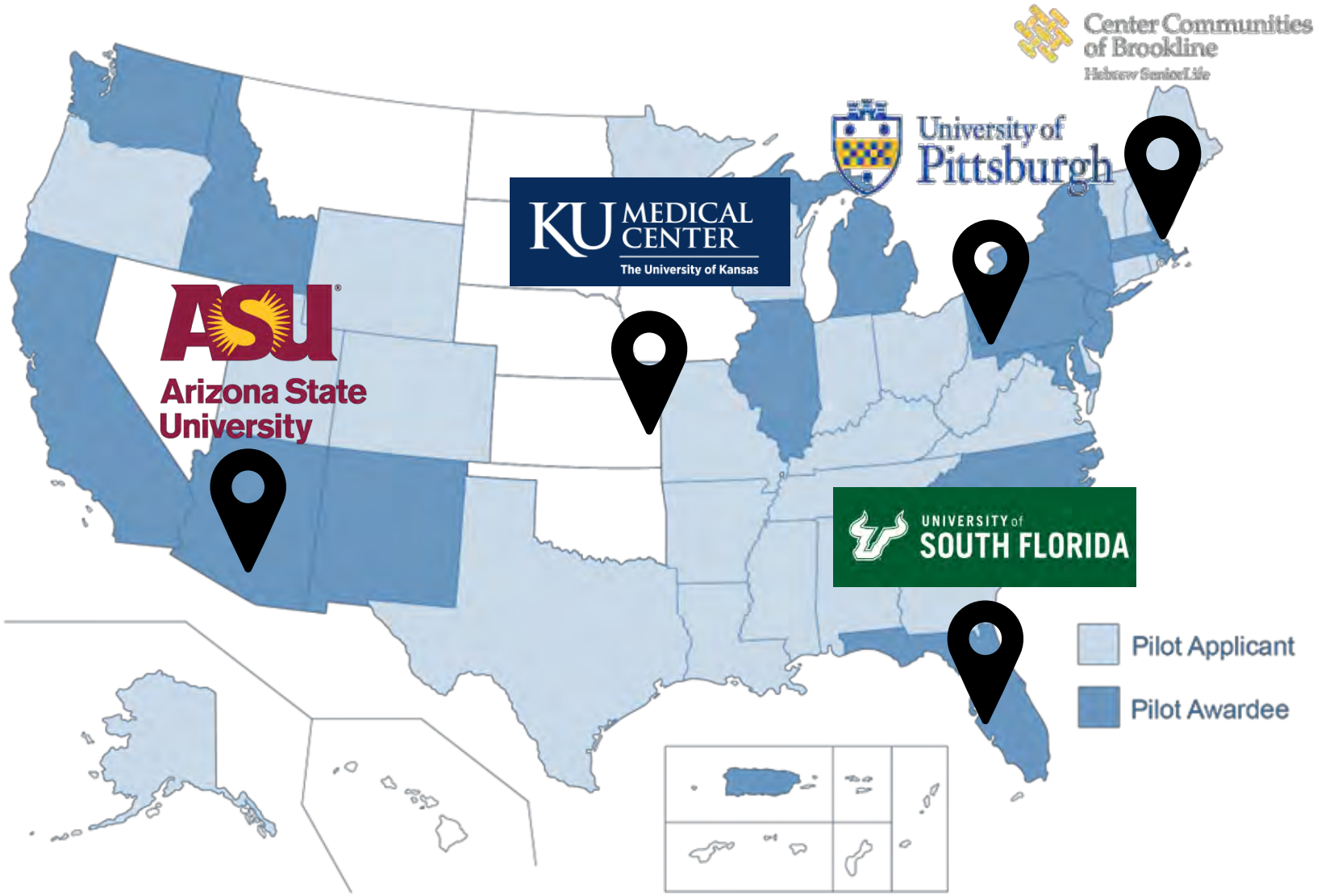
- IALS Sleep Research Core
- IALS mHealth Software Core
- IALS Gait & Mobility Core
- Driving simulator
- UMass CDSAI dataCore
- AI Ethics Consulting

Mass General Brigham

- MassADRC Patient Cohorts
- MassADRC Biomarker Core
- Clinical & Translation Research Unit

National Network of Pilot Partners (N2P2)

N2P2 is a curated collection of institutions aligned with the mission of MassAITC that have verified expertise, facilities, patient populations, and services in place ready to partner with you as an implementation site.



Available Resources across N2P2 sites



MassAITC Resource Access Models

MassAITC Allocation

MassAITC has limited consulting resources that can be allocated to select pilot projects at no cost including AI ethics consulting, AI and data science consulting, and mHealth consulting.

Fee-for-Service

MassAITC can facilitate access to fee-for-service research cores at UMass Amherst and MGH to help pilot teams accelerate their research including the gait lab, sleep lab, driving simulator, MADRC biomarker core and more.

Partnership

MassAITC can facilitate access to resources at MassADRC and within our N2P2 sites by assisting pilot teams in identifying researchers to partner with.

Process and Expectations for MassAITC Resources



To request assistance in connecting with resources, please complete the MassAITC Inquiry Form: https://tinyurl.com/MassAITC-Inquiry-Form



We encourage you to reach out early if you anticipate needing additional expertise or access to resources.



Note that all teams will receive mentors, but it is not necessary for MassITC pilot projects to leverage other MassAITC resources.

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What Makes a Strong MassAITC Pilot Proposal?

- Clear technology development, integration, or enhancement focus
- Clear description of technology readiness level
- Clear aging or AD/ADRD focus with pathway to improve outcomes
- Clear separation of prior work, work to be completed under the award, and longer-term plans or vision
- Clear description of work to be completed under the award in terms of scientific aims and research questions
- Evidence that the proposed work can be successfully carried out by the team
- Reflects understanding of appropriate ethical & AI safety considerations
- Commercial and/or translational potential

Technology Readiness: What is expected?

Non-clinical trial projects	May be at any stage of development, from early concept to prototype to technology ready for real-world use.
Clinical trial projects	Must use technology that is ready to be evaluated.

A strong proposal should:

- Not conflate a technology's current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) with the TRL expected by the end of the project
- Provide clear evidence supporting the current TRL of the technology
- Have already deployed and tested technologies proposed for adults with AD/ADRD with cognitively normal adults

Human Subjects Research and Study Design Expectations

- Any project that collects data from human subjects must receive IRB approval or get IRB determination that the project is “Not Human Subjects Research”
- If you are proposing prospective human subjects research, we expect your team to include someone experienced with IRB processes, study design, recruitment, and implementation.
- This project will follow the Single IRB rule. UMass Amherst is the IRB of record for all pilot research. If you have a local IRB, your pilot research will need approval from both the UMass Amherst IRB and your local IRB.

Expectations for Clinical Trials

- MassAITC will fund up to 1 Clinical Trial per application cycle.
- Use the NIH Clinical Trial Determination tool to assess whether your proposed research meets the definition of a clinical trial: https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/clinical-trials/ct-decision
- Teams proposing a clinical trial this application cycle must have demonstrated experience running a clinical trial or partner with a Contract Research Organization (CRO) or academic site with clinical trial supporting infrastructure.
- The technology proposed for evaluation in a clinical trial must have been previously deployed for testing with human subjects.

LOI Preparation and Submission Support

Links for AITCC Support:

- FAQs: https://aitcc.ai/faq
- Submit a question: https://aitcc.ai/faq#submit-a-question
- LOI Submission Portal: https://grants.aitcc.ai/opportunities/AITC-ARA-27-001/start
- AITC Coordinating Center: aitcc@yale.edu

Links for MassAITC-Specific Support:

- Questions related to MassAITC: massaitc@umass.edu
- To request implementation partner: https://tinyurl.com/MassAITC-Round1-Inquiry-Form