



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



Request for Proposal to Conduct a Scoping Review

Assessing the Value and Patient Impact of Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) in Continuity-Focused Primary Care

ISSUE DATE	May 9, 2025
AREA OF INTEREST	Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS)
PURPOSE	The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) Foundation is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a scoping review to examine the role and impact of POCUS in primary care, with a particular focus on its impact on patient and practice outcomes within continuity of care settings. The review will aim to identify evidence gaps and inform future research priorities.
BUDGET	Individuals or teams may request up to \$25,000 for direct costs for a project with a term of 4 months . An additional 10% may be requested for indirect costs. The ABFM Foundation will award funding to one selected proposal.
GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE	United States and Canada
ELIGIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigators with a strong track record of conducting evidence reviews. • Applicants with clinical expertise in the use of POCUS—particularly in continuity of care settings—or with meaningful access to such expertise through collaborators or advisors.
KEY DATES AND DEADLINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal Deadline: June 9, 2025 • Award Notification: Anticipated by June 27, 2025 • Project Period: July 1 – November 3, 2025 (approximately 4 months)
EXPECTED DELIVERABLES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehensive summary of key findings and evidence gaps, including implications for clinical practice, policy, and future research — conducted using PRISMA-ScR or JBI scoping review frameworks, with documented search strategy, screening process, and thematic synthesis. 2. Draft manuscript prepared for peer-reviewed publication, aligned with target journal guidelines and structured for academic submission. 3. Stakeholder-ready slide deck for ABFM stakeholder use, highlighting key insights, conclusions, and practical recommendations.
HOW TO APPLY	See pages 2 and 3 for a detailed overview of the RFP, including background, purpose, and submission requirements.
QUESTIONS	For questions regarding this RFP, please contact Dana Price, Manager of Grants and Collaborations, at danaprice@theabfm.org .

Background

The ABFM Foundation invites proposals for a scoping review of the literature on the effectiveness, quality, and use of point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) in outpatient, continuity-focused primary care settings.

Interest in the clinical use of POCUS within family medicine has surged over the past decade.^{1,2} A large majority of family medicine residents express a strong interest in ultrasound training, and the demand for faculty development in POCUS continues to rise.^{1,3,4} However, despite this momentum, the evidence supporting the routine and sustained use of POCUS in outpatient primary care and continuity of care settings remains limited.¹

In contrast, POCUS is well-established in emergency and hospital-based settings—where early adoption has been supported by robust evidence demonstrating improved diagnostic accuracy and patient outcomes.^{5,6} This underscores the need for similarly rigorous, high-quality evidence summaries in primary care and continuity of care contexts, where the majority of U.S. family physicians practice.

Through this RFP, the ABFM Foundation seeks to address this gap by supporting a scoping review that will assess and synthesize the current state of evidence, identify research gaps, and help shape future study priorities. Proposals should aim to advance the understanding and integration of POCUS in family medicine, with the goal of improving both patient care and the specialty's capacity for innovation.

¹ Capizzano JN, et al. *J Am Board Fam Med.* 2022;35(4):809-813.² Hoffman MR, et al. *Fam Med.* 2023;55(7):460-466. ³ Ludden-Schlatter A, et al. *PRIMER.* 2023;7. ⁴ Taylor MJ, et al. *Fam Med.* 2024;56(10):668-671. ⁵ Soni NJ, Schnobrich D, et al. *J Hosp Med.* 2019;14(1). ⁶ *Ann Emerg Med.* 2023;82(3):e115-e155.

Funding Details and Resource Support

Applicants may request up to **\$25,000** in direct costs for a project to be conducted between July 1 and November 3, 2025 (approximately 4 months). An additional 10% (\$2,500) may be requested for indirect costs. The ABFM Foundation will award funding to **one** selected proposal.

To support project success, the Foundation will provide access to an experienced medical librarian to assist with the development of the search strategy and other key aspects of the scoping review. The Foundation will also cover any fees associated with submitting the final manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal.

Eligibility

Primary: Investigators based in the United States or Canada with a strong track record in conducting high-quality evidence reviews, particularly in the areas of health services research, clinical interventions, or primary care. Prior experience with scoping or systematic reviews using established methodological frameworks, such as PRISMA-ScR or JBI is highly preferred.

Secondary: Applicants with clinical expertise in the use of POCUS—particularly in continuity of care settings— or with meaningful access to such expertise through collaborators or advisors. Familiarity with POCUS applications in outpatient, continuity-focused primary care settings is especially desirable.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- **RFP Issue Date:** May 9, 2025
- **Proposal Deadline:** June 9, 2025
- **Award Notification:** Anticipated by June 27, 2025
- **Project Period:** July 1 – November 3, 2025 (approximately 4 months)

Expected Deliverables

1. **Comprehensive summary of key findings and evidence gaps**, including implications for clinical practice, policy, and future research—conducted using [PRISMA-ScR](#) or [JBI](#) scoping review frameworks, with documented search strategy, screening process, and thematic synthesis.
2. **Draft manuscript prepared for peer-reviewed publication**, aligned with target journal guidelines and structured for academic submission.
3. **Stakeholder-ready slide deck** for ABFM stakeholder use, highlighting key insights, conclusions, and practical recommendations.

Proposal Review Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed and scored based on the following criteria:

- **Methodology:**
 - Strength, clarity, and rigor of the proposed approach, including the formulation of the research question, literature search strategy, and methods for synthesizing and presenting findings. Thoroughness and alignment with established scoping review frameworks will be prioritized.
 - Recommended scoping review resources:
 - PRISMA for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR): <https://www.prisma-statement.org/scoping>
 - Peters MDJ, Marnie C, Tricco AC, et al. Updated methodological guidance for the conduct of scoping reviews. *JBI Evid Synth.* 2020;18(10):2119–2126. doi:10.11124/JBIES-20-00167
- **Individual or Group Experience:** Demonstrated research expertise, including a strong track record in conducting and disseminating evidence reviews, as well as experience in program review or evaluation.
- **Clinical and/or Teaching Expertise:** A clear understanding of the unique barriers to POCUS adoption in continuity-focused primary care settings, including limited training infrastructure, time constraints, reimbursement challenges, and gaps in clinical guidelines. The scoping review approach should thoughtfully account for these contextual factors when assessing the current evidence and identifying opportunities for future research and implementation.
- **Timeline:** Feasibility and appropriateness of the proposed timeline to complete the project within the expected term.

Submission Guidelines

1. **Submission Instructions:** Upload your proposal and budget through the following link by **June 9, 2025**. Accepted File Formats: Word, PDF, Excel.
Submission Form: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/2c57703243e84339b4a7988fe01eb906>
2. **Proposal/Budget Guidelines:** Submissions should be clear, concise, and thorough—limited to no more than 5 pages, using 11- or 12-point font. The 5-page limit applies only to the main proposal; the budget should be submitted as a separate attachment. Proposals should include the following components:
 - A clear outline of the proposed approach, including how the work will be conducted.
 - An estimated timeline detailing the time required for each phase of the project.
 - Qualifications and relevant experience of the project lead and identification of all team members or collaborators involved, along with their roles.
 - A detailed budget aligned with the work plan for up to \$25,000, including personnel time and project costs, plus an additional 10% (\$2,500) for indirect costs.