

D4L Impact Program Request for Proposals (RFP) and Application Guideline

D4L Impact Track: Collect for Impact

1. Program Overview and Background

Data4Life is a nonprofit digital health organization headquartered in Potsdam, supported by the Hasso Plattner Foundation, with additional locations in Berlin and Singapore. We make health data from diverse sources accessible, standardized, and secure, enabling responsible research in the field of **personalized medicine, real-world data** and **real-world evidence**. **D4L Evidence Health Solutions** support international standards such as FHIR and OMOP, and enable scalable digital research infrastructures with a strong focus on data sovereignty and transparency. We work with university hospitals and global research institutions to unlock the full potential of health data. In collaboration with partners like the Hasso Plattner Institute, Mount Sinai Health System, and Charité Berlin, we are supporting cross-border use cases based on millions of patient records. As a nonprofit, we prioritize social impact, data ethics, and open collaboration.

With the **D4L Impact Program**, D4L seeks to strengthen the international digital health research ecosystem by providing early-career researchers with access to D4L's platforms, mentorship, and cloud resources. This call, titled **D4L Impact Track: Collect for Impact**, supports projects that generate real-world evidence (RWE) from digital data sources, including patient-reported outcomes (PROs), wearable and sensor data, and mobile health applications.

The program is funded by Data4Life and supported by the Hasso Plattner Foundation. It contributes directly to D4L's charitable mission to promote science, research, and the improvement of public health.

2. Program Objectives and Scope

The goal of the program is to accelerate high-quality RWE generation by empowering early-career researchers to design, conduct, and publish digital studies using [D4L Collect](#), Data4Life's modular platform for digital data collection and management.

Product demos and Q&A sessions will be provided on the following dates:

Feb 12 2026, 1-2 PM (CET)
Feb 23 2026, 9-10 AM (CET)
Mar 5 2026, 4.30-5.30 PM (CET)

This first call will focus on projects in **oncology, neurology, or cardiovascular diseases**.

Projects may address topics such as:

- Digital biomarkers and remote monitoring
- Patient-reported outcomes and experience measures (PROMs, PREMs)
- Sensor-based behavioral or physiological data
- Integration of wearable and mobile health data
- Real-world data (RWD) collection for clinical or observational research
- Natural history studies and patient registries

Use of EQ-5D-5L, which will be readily available in D4L Collect, is encouraged and will be considered positively where appropriate for the study population.

Projects must demonstrate scientific quality, feasibility, and alignment with open-science principles such as FAIR data and open access.

3. Eligibility Criteria

The D4L impact program will support individual researchers, research groups, academic institutions as well as industrial partners. However, this call ‘D4L Impact Track: Collect for Impact’, will give **priority to early-career academic researchers**, including PhD candidates, postdoctoral fellows, and junior group leaders, based at recognized universities or non-profit research institutions.

Applicants must be legally eligible to collaborate with Data4Life under applicable data protection, research ethics, and export control regulations. Applications from regions where such compliance cannot be ensured may not be considered.

Each applicant may submit one proposal per call.

4. Available Support and Award Details

Up to **five projects** will be awarded a research grant, which includes:

- Free license for the use of **D4L Collect** for up to 12 months
- Free setup, operation, and maintenance of the platform environment, including cloud storage of project generated data
- Coverage of publication fees for open-access articles resulting from the project
- Individual product customization based on project needs e.g., connection to new sensor¹
- Second-level support during business hours
- Coverage of travel costs up to 1500€ for presenting the project at an international scientific conference
- Mentorship, data analysis, and project management support throughout the project
- Access to D4L's secure infrastructure for compliant data collection and processing

Awardees must publish their results in open-access venues 6 months after study end, and make all generated code and datasets publicly available through Data4Life's repositories (e.g., Zenodo, Github, D4L Data Pool) 12 months after study end.

For project budgets exceeding **€100,000**, a **co-funding contribution of 50%** by the applicant institution is required.

5. Application Process

Applications must be submitted via the Google or web form available on the [program website](#) by **April 12, 2026 (23:59 CET)**.

¹ Note: Customization is possible within reasonable scope and subject to feasibility and resource assessment. D4L cannot guarantee implementation of major new product features within the project period. For extensive customization needs leading to a project budget of more than €100.000, a co-funding contribution of 50% by the research organization is required.

Required application materials

Applicants must complete and upload the following:

- Project title and abstract (max. 350 words)
- Study design, structured according to **TCIO-TAR**
- Technical requirements, including intended use of D4L Collect (modules, storage, integrations)
- Expected outcomes and dissemination plan, including:
 - Intended research outputs (publications, datasets, or open-source code)
 - Commitment to open-access and open-science principles
- Team information (CVs of the principal investigator and key collaborators, institutional affiliation) → needs to be submitted separately via email to
impactprogram@data4life.care

Applications must be complete to be considered. All documents must be in **English**.

6. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

All eligible proposals will undergo a **two-stage review** process:

Stage 1 – Eligibility Screening

Verification of completeness and compliance with program scope and eligibility criteria, conducted by the D4L Program Management Team.

Stage 2 – Scientific and Technical Review

Evaluation by a **Review Panel** of internal and external experts, using the following weighted criteria:

Criterion	Weight
1. Scientific Quality	40%
2. Innovation Potential	20%
3. Feasibility & Resource Requirements	25%
4. Long-term Impact and Adoption	15%

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by **June 2026**.

Criteria Definition

Scientific Quality: The degree to which the proposed study is methodologically sound, hypothesis-driven, and demonstrates appropriate design, data integrity, and relevance to current research questions.

Innovation Potential: The project's ability to advance new ideas, methodologies, technologies, or applications within digital health, data science, or real-world evidence research.

Feasibility & Resource Requirements: The practicality and resource efficiency of the proposed project, with particular emphasis on the expected effort and cost on Data4Life's side (including software development time, cloud computing, and data storage requirements) in relation to the project's anticipated scientific and strategic value.

Long-term Impact and Adoption: The extent to which the proposed study or project can achieve sustainable and scalable impact beyond its initial scope, including potential for adoption by new institutions, integration into existing workflows, or long-term collaboration with Data4Life and its partners. This criterion measures the project's ability to create lasting value, scientifically, operationally, and strategically, within the digital health ecosystem.

7. Terms and Conditions

Awardees must adhere to Data4Life's open-science and compliance principles, including:

- **Publication** in open-access journal 6 months after study end
- **Public release of generated code and datasets**, where legally and ethically permissible, 12 months after study end
- **Acknowledgment of Data4Life** in all publications and presentations
- Submission of a **6-month interim progress report** and a **final report** within two months of completion
- **Compliance** with applicable data protection, ethics, and research integrity standards

Projects must not involve commercial sponsorship or use D4L infrastructure for proprietary or for-profit purposes.

8. Data Governance and Data Sharing

All awardees remain responsible for obtaining all necessary ethics and institutional approvals prior to data collection and for ensuring compliance with applicable data protection regulations. Data collected within the project will be processed and stored securely in accordance with Data4Life's technical and organizational safeguards. Applicants remain the data controller for their research project, unless otherwise agreed in writing. In line with the program's open-science principles, awardees are required to publish research outputs and to share code and datasets that can be made publicly available, such as de-identified, aggregated, or otherwise non-personal research datasets, subject to ethical and legal constraints. Personal health data and any information that could enable re-identification must not be made publicly accessible.

8. Preliminary timeline

Phase	Date
RFP publication	January 12 2026
Application deadline	April 12, 2026
Eligibility screening	April 2026
Review and selection	April / May 2026
Award notification	Beg. June 2026
Project start	June/July 2026
Interim report	January 2027
Project completion	June/July 2027
Final report submission	September 2027

Awardees are expected to participate in regular project check-ins and provide timely inputs to enable configuration and monitoring.

9. Contact and Submission

All applications must be submitted electronically through the form available on the [D4L Impact Program website](#), and additional documents must be sent to impactprogram@data4life.care. For questions or technical assistance, please contact:

Data4Life Impact Program Team

✉ impactprogram@data4life.care

🌐 www.data4life.care

10. Disclaimer

Data4Life reserves the right to amend, withdraw, or discontinue this call at any time. The program's terms are subject to compliance with Data4Life's charitable mission, donor requirements, and applicable German and EU law.

Participation in this call does not establish any legal entitlement to funding. Funding decisions are final and not subject to appeal.