# **IEEE HTB/SIGHT Projects Call for Proposals**

The Project Assessment Matrix, Common Pitfalls, and How to Submit an Application



First: The Idea

## Where should all proposals start?

- A proposal should be for a "feet on the ground" initiative that applies technology to a challenge faced by a local, underserved community. "Local" is defined by the fact that key leaders of the project are citizens and/or permanent residents of the area where the project would take place.
- There should be strong community input and partnerships
- HTB/SIGHT projects must include: deployment of technology, customization of technology, and/or development of technology
- A project may involve multiple activities (community building, technology adaptation, deployment, etc.).
- Must focus on ensuring the sustainability of project results.



## **Important!**

Read the Call for Proposals to determine if your idea falls within the scope of this funding opportunity, and that you and your team members meet all the eligibility requirements.

(It also includes a list of questions on the application form)



## **Tips for Success**

- Applications must be submitted via the <u>IEEE HTB/SIGHT Online Funding Opportunities</u> Portal
- First time applicants will need to create a user account in order to submit a proposal
- Please download the template files which are required to complete the online proposal



# **Application Process**



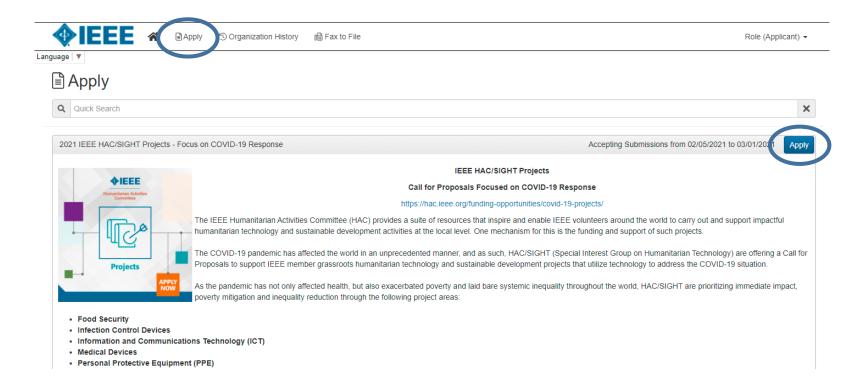
## **Creating an Account**

- Navigate to the <u>IEEE HTB/SIGHT Online Funding Opportunities Portal</u>
- First time applicants will need to "Create New Account"



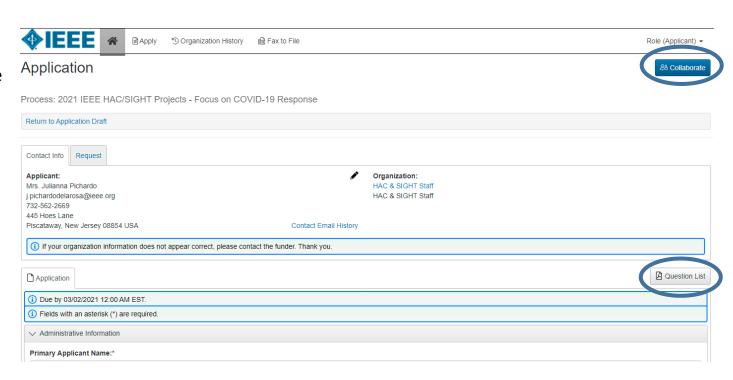


## **Navigating to the Application Form**



## **Beginning the Application**

- Then, complete the fields of the form!
- You have the option to "Collaborate", and invite someone else to complete the form with you
- You can also download the "Question List" as a PDF





## **Completing the Application**

- Respond to questions in spaces provided some questions have word or character limits; others have links to external resources for reference/guidance
- Upload the project matrix and budget form for corresponding questions. For example:

#### Completed IEEE HAC/SIGHT Projects Budget Application\*

Please download, complete, and submit the IEEE HAC/SIGHT Projects Application Budget Template, renaming the file to Name of Proposal (or abbreviation) to avoid potential confusion. Amount requested must be between US \$1,000.00 and US \$5,000.00. Please check to ensure that the total amount requested in the budget is the same as the response to the question "Funding Requested from HAC" earlier in this form.



To Submit: Sign, Date, and "Submit Application"!



## **Characteristics of Great Proposals**



## **Basic Characteristics of a Great Proposal**

#### HTB/SIGHT aim to fund projects that:

- Provide good use of IEEE expertise shows the best of what IEEE can offer the community (technological component is strong)
- Clear engagement with the community, indicating that the proposed solution is both desired and feasible
- Established relationships, ideally documented, with stakeholders who will be involved in project implementation
  - Clear, detailed, and credible Project Assessment Matrix, Project Implementation Plan, and Budget
  - Team has the combined experience to credibly execute the project
  - Identifies and addresses potential risk
  - Project will have real, tangible impact

If a proposal is missing the mark on two or more of these areas, it might not be ready for funding.



## **Common Application Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them**

**Administrative Information** 

- Primary Applicant must be an IEEE Professional member or higher and active.
  - We welcome proposals from student members, but they must have an active IEEE Professional
    member or higher grade as primary applicant. We check all member numbers before putting an
    application through to the reviewers. If membership status of the primary applicant is in arrears, it
    cannot move forward.
- IEEE Organizational Unit whenever possible, should be an IEEE Section.
  - HTB generally cannot transfer funds to a Society Chapter or Student Branch. Please make sure to check
    with the OU Treasurer beforehand about how funds are disbursed and if any fees are incurred with the
    transfer of funds.
- Funding Amount Requested must be within the limits stated in the Call for Proposals.
- Terms of Funding must be within the limits stated in the Call for Proposals.



## **Common Application Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them**

#### **Project Overview**

- Technology component proposals must have a technology component, within <a href="IEEE-designated">IEEE-designated</a> fields.
- **Technology application** proposals must ensure that the solution includes an *application* of technology. Pure research projects cannot be considered.
- Measuring success Projects must have a clearly articulated plan for impact measurement
- General Projects proposed solutions must be developed with the involvement and participation of a specific, local beneficiary community.
- Unnecessary travel/in-person components should be avoided.
- Projects will **not** be considered if they are:
  - primarily research or commercial in nature
  - purely STEM education-related
  - solely focused on immediate disaster relief.
  - focused on developing medical devices or medical device prototypes



## **Common Application Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them**

Risk, collaboration, and budget

- Potential risks spend enough time on this part!
  - Please make sure to thoroughly consider the potential risks of the project, including, but not limited to, risk of infection, data privacy risks, etc., and how they can be mitigated.
- Documentation of collaboration make sure to include.
  - Provide documentation to validate partnerships with external organizations, local community representatives, or government entities. Reviewers frequently ask to see letters of acknowledgement and support.
- Budget items do not include salaries or honorariums for work that could be done by IEEE volunteers.
  - Reimbursing the salary of anyone contributing to the project must be carefully justified. Associated salary costs should be clearly explained and not constitute any more than a minor part of the overall budget proposed.



# **The Project Assessment Matrix**







\$0.00

#### Project Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

#### Online

Project assessment, monitoring, and evaluation are crucial parts of any humanitarian technology or sustainable development project and must be taken into account from the beginning of the project.

At the end of this module you will be able to appreciate the importance of well-planned assessment, and why project assessment is important for the success of your project; implement monitoring & evaluation (M&E) best practices at all stages of the project; set clear goals and strategy for M&E; develop relevant and useful indicators and take baseline measurements; and identify data sources and collection procedures to obtain relevant, credible information, including information from community stakeholders

This is the sixth module of the Humanitarian Technology and Sustainable Development at IEEE curriculum. We recommend you complete the first five courses in the curriculum before beginning in order to build upon the foundation of information.

Instructors



#### Humanitarian Activities Committee

IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC)

The IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) provides a suite of resources that inspire and enable IEEE volunteers around the world to carry out and/or support impactful humanitarian technology and sustainable development activities at the local level.

HAC focuses on raising awareness of how technically trained popula can contribute providing training for

IEEE member \$0.00
IEEE student member \$0.00

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Not a member? Join IEEE

Non-IEEE member



Course Provider: IEEE Humanitarian Activities
Committee

Course Number: HAC007

Duration (Hours): 1

Credits: 0.1 CFU/ 1 PDH



## **The Project Assessment Matrix**

#### IEEE HTB/SIGHT Project Assessment Matrix 2023

For information about the matrix, please click here,

PROJECT NAME: enter Project Name, same as on application, here

PROJECT NAME: enter Project Name, same as on application, here  OBJECTIVE: enter statement of objective here									
INTERNAL Project #	INDICATOR	DEFINITION	BASELINE What is the value at project	TARGET	ACTUAL	DATA SOURCE	FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE	REPORTING
OUTPUT:		How is it calculated	inception	What is the target value?	Value at project close.	How is it measured?	How often measured?	Who measures?	Where is/was it reported?
state output #1 here									
OUTPUT:									
state output #2 here									
OUTPUT:									
state output #3 here									
OUTCOME:									
state outcome #1 here									
OUTCOME:									
state outcome #2 here									
OUTCOME:									
state outcome #3 here									

OBJECTIVE:	Demonstrate the feasibility of renewable battery energy storage									
	INDICATOR	DEFINITION  How is it calculated?	What is the value at project inception?	TARGET What is the target value?	Value at project close.	DATA SOURCE How is it measured?	FREQUENCY How often measured?	Who measures?	REPORTING Where is/was it reported?	
OUTPUT: Solar powered rechargeable batteries	Number of solar-powered batteries adopted by community	Total number of signed contracts for a new solar powered battery.	0	45		Partner NGO records	Midpoint and project close		To project team, HAC Projects Committee and HAC Assessment Committee	
OUTPUT: Increased access to renewable power	Renewable energy generation capacity of batteries received by families	MW	0	4.60		Capacity of batteries delivered		Project team	To project team, HAC Projects Committee and HAC Assessment Committee	
OUTCOME: Improved access to power by families in the village	Households provided with power by the project (%)	(# of families receiving batteries/# of families in village)*100	12	25			Project close	Project team	Project team, HAC Projects Committee, and HAC Assessment Committee, Business bureau	



### **Common Pitfalls**

- Forgetting to add an objective
- Not filling out the whole matrix
  - However, only enter as many outputs/outcomes as your project has there is no set number
- Entering info into "Actual" column: this column should remain blank until the project conclusion
- Putting dates in any of the cells
- Not differentiating between outputs and outcomes
- Selecting very broad or vague outputs and outcomes that can't be measured
- Not differentiating between baseline and target data



# General Overview of HTB/SIGHT Project Lifecycle

## **HTB/SIGHT Projects Review Process**

#### **Administrative Information**

- Upon submission, a staff member will review your proposal to ensure it is complete. The staff team contacts the applicants about changes that would need to be made so it can be considered eligible for review.
- Two-step review process If your proposal passes the initial review stage, reviewers will send
  questions to request additional information that they didn't see included in your proposal. There
  may be several rounds of questions.
- You may be asked to provide letters demonstrating partnerships, or other funding sources
- Second-round reviewers are members of the IEEE HTB Best Practices & Projects Committee
- The IEEE Office of Risk and Insurance Management (ORIMS) will also review proposals to help identify any potential risks that were not included in the proposal
- \*AVERAGE\* timeline from the submission deadline to final funding decisions (for proposals considered for both review stages) is 8 – 12 weeks



## **HTB/SIGHT Project Management Process**

A systematic process to reduce risk and increase impact

Project proposals are evaluated by HTB/SIGHT reviewers who ensure they are within the scope of funding, meet eligibility requirements, and are strong candidates for approval.

Stage 1
Evaluation

## Stage 2 Evaluation

Proposals are scrutinized by the HTB Best Practices & Projects Committee (HTBPPC) who ensure the applicant team provided all necessary information and that the project has a reasonable chance of success.

The HTBPPC apply strict criteria to select the most qualified proposals to receive funding.

Initial Approval

## ORIMS & Legal Review

All selected proposals are sent to the IEEE Office of Risk and Insurance Management (ORIMS), and IEEE Legal if necessary, to determine if there are associated risks that have not yet been identified.\*

The HTBPPC reviews inputs from ORIMS and Legal and makes a final decision. Funding goes through and is overseen by an IEEE fiscal intermediary - usually the local Section – as specified by the IEEE FOM. Funding is never sent to an external entity. Funding not used per the approved budget is returned to HTB.

Final Decision & Funding

\*If a potential risk is identified, this is discussed with the committee and applicant, and the HTBPPC makes a final decision.

## Review & Oversight

Mid-project oversight:
The HTB Project
Monitoring Committee
(PMC) provides direction
for project teams that
request support in their

request support in their required monthly updates.

Final report review & follow-up: The PMC reviews all final reports (submitted within 60 days of a project's completion) and request clarification as needed. Their feedback informs future funding decisions for proposals from the same team.

# Humanitarian Technologies Board

## **Questions?**

Contact <a href="http-projects@ieee.org">http-projects@ieee.org</a>

