

1. How long is the term of a program manager?

Three years and an optional three-year renewal. Six years is the maximum.

2. How to get funding from ARPA-H?

Through programs and open solicitations for mission offices on the website. If an idea can be funded by NIH, it will not be funded by ARPA-H. ARPA-H is a problem centric ultra focused approach to research. They fund big ideas that are underserved, underfunded and could use a catalytic investment. If an idea is too technically risky, or the market size is too small or there's a lack of understanding about how to transition a capability to the marketplace, this is of interest to ARPA-H who wants to solve the technical problems but also the ecosystem around it by asking questions such as "how do we create a marketplace? How do we make the tools accessible?"

3. What does ARPA-H not fund?

Iterative research (i.e., if you've completed phase one trial and are looking to fund phase two). Because it is already de-risked, it is not of interest.

4. What is ARPA-H interested in funding?

Technical leaps.

5. What are the qualities of a program manager?

There are about 17 program managers at ARPA-H. They each are passionate about their idea, have demonstrated expertise in their field and are "do-ers" as they need to execute their program in three + three years (i.e., no more than six-year terms). They solicit their programs and fund the best teams. They look at the potential regulatory or policy blockers years down the line.

6. What is the mechanism for ARPA-H funding?

They issue contracts and cooperative agreements. The program manager is a member of the funded team helping to solve the problem and ensure the funds are being used efficiently and effectively.

7. What are tips and tricks when applying to ARPA-H?

If an idea is in scope for NIH, it is out of scope for ARPA-H. Disruptive, revolutionary areas are in scope for ARPA-H. The "narrative" is less important than the "statement of work" that has the milestones and deliverables. Multidisciplinary teams and non-traditional players are of interest. The customer experience and using the tools as a HCP or patient matters and contributes directly to the likelihood that the tools will be adopted. The customer is built in by design for the beginning. The idea and health outcome should be clear, concise and within the three pages.

8. Is there a standard ARPA-H model on evaluating performance of the contract after it's funded or is it program or program manager specific?

Yes. At this stage of ARPA-H, every program that's launched is a new technical idea and new aspect of healthcare that's being addressed and behind the scenes, new business practices are being piloted.