

**AAMC CHARGE Investigates: 2026 Call for Research  
Scoring Criteria**

Criteria	Score	Descriptors
Relevance and Importance	<b>5</b> Exceptional <b>4</b> Strong <b>3</b> Adequate <b>2</b> Limited <b>1</b> Minimal/None	<p><b>5</b> Directly addresses a critical and well-defined health equity issue, demonstrates deep understanding of structural drivers, clearly articulates why the topic is urgent and consequential.</p> <p><b>4</b> Addresses an important health equity issue with clear rationale, identifies relevant populations and inequities, shows understanding of context.</p> <p><b>3</b> Topic is related to health equity, but the rationale is general or underdeveloped; connection to inequities is present but not well articulated.</p> <p><b>2</b> Mentions health equity, but relevance is weak, superficial, or tangential; lacks clarity about populations or inequities.</p> <p><b>1</b> Does not meaningfully address health equity, or misinterprets the concept.</p>
Contribution to Knowledge	<b>5</b> Exceptional <b>4</b> Strong <b>3</b> Adequate <b>2</b> Limited <b>1</b> Minimal/None	<p><b>5</b> Makes a significant, original contribution to health equity scholarship, fills a clear gap, advances conceptual, methodological, or applied understanding.</p> <p><b>4</b> Offers meaningful insights, or extends existing knowledge; identifies a reasonable gap and proposes a solid contribution.</p> <p><b>3</b> Adds incremental knowledge; gap identification is modest or somewhat unclear.</p>

		<p><b>2</b> Contribution is vague, redundant, or unclear; does not convincingly articulate how it advances the field.</p> <p><b>1</b> There is no identifiable contribution to health equity knowledge.</p>
Analytical Approach Validity	<p><b>5</b> Exceptional</p> <p><b>4</b> Strong</p> <p><b>3</b> Adequate</p> <p><b>2</b> Limited</p> <p><b>1</b> Minimal/None</p>	<p><b>5</b> Analytical approach (methodology and methods) is rigorous, well justified, and aligned with research questions; methods reflect strong validity, reliability, and health equity-centered considerations.</p> <p><b>4</b> Methods are appropriate and well explained; minor gaps exist, but there is overall strong alignment with research aims.</p> <p><b>3</b> Methods are generally appropriate but lack detail, justification, or attention to validity; there is some misalignment with research questions.</p> <p><b>2</b> Methods are weak, poorly justified, or misaligned; there are concerns about validity or feasibility.</p> <p><b>1</b> Analytical approach is inappropriate, missing, or invalid.</p>
Impact/Implications	<p><b>5</b> Exceptional</p> <p><b>4</b> Strong</p> <p><b>3</b> Adequate</p> <p><b>2</b> Limited</p> <p><b>1</b> Minimal/None</p>	<p><b>5</b> Communicates compelling potential for real-world impact of findings; articulates actionable implications for policy, practice, or community change; centers health equity in translation pathways.</p> <p><b>4</b> Identifies meaningful implications and potential impact; pathways to influence are plausible and well described.</p> <p><b>3</b> Describes general implications but lacks specificity or clear pathways to impact.</p> <p><b>2</b> Implications are vague, unrealistic, or disconnected from findings.</p> <p><b>1</b> There is no meaningful discussion of impact or implications.</p>
Clarity and Presentation	<p><b>5</b> Exceptional</p> <p><b>4</b> Strong</p> <p><b>3</b> Adequate</p>	<p><b>5</b> Writing is exceptionally clear, concise, and engaging, the rationale presented is logically structured, and sentences are</p>

	<b>2</b> Limited <b>1</b> Minimal/None	<p>precise, leaving no ambiguity for the reviewer.</p> <p><b>4</b> Writing is clear and well structured; there are a few areas where it can be more concise, but meaning is clearly conveyed and articulated.</p> <p><b>3</b> Writing is generally understandable but can be ambiguous, which requires rereading.</p> <p><b>2</b> Writing is unclear in multiple areas, it is difficult to understand main ideas throughout, and there is disorganized phrasing.</p> <p><b>1</b> Writing is unclear, confusing, or poorly structured, enough to impede the conveyance of meaning.</p>
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