

CoreAlign

INNOVATION LAB

ROUND TWO

September 2016

Introduction: Innovation Lab Round 2 - *Love, Sex, Family, Community*

ABOUT COREALIGN

Since 2011, CoreAlign has worked with existing and emerging leaders across the country to develop proactive, innovative and forward-facing strategies for the reproductive movement. We envision a future where all people have the resources, rights and respect they need to have the love, sex, family and community they desire. To achieve this, we support leaders in the movement to adopt innovative mindsets and practices – to *do things differently* and *do different things*.

ABOUT THE INNOVATION LAB

CoreAlign's **Innovation Lab** offers an opportunity for small teams of leaders to practice innovation together. We invite alumni of our fellowship programs to collaborate with their colleagues to explore, test and implement solutions to complex reproductive movement issues within a supportive and fun environment.

Our second round of the Innovation Lab will run from **November 2016 through August 2017**. Approximately five teams will be selected to participate in the lab using a competitive application process. Each team will develop an individualized plan to carry out their project, which will include 1-2 in-person meetings with their teammates at a time and in a location of their choice. CoreAlign will provide virtual technical assistance and financial resources to aid teams with their experiments over the nine-month period.

IMPORTANT DATES & INFO

Informational webinar

September 13, 2016

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. PT

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. MT

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. CT

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET

Application due date

By October 7, 2016,

12:00 p.m. PT

Selection

announcement

By October 31, 2016

Innovation Lab launch webinar

November 9, 2016

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. PT

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. MT

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. CT

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET

Details: The Process

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The second round of the Innovation Lab will run from **November 2016 through August 2017** and is designed to build upon the foundational innovation skills practiced within CoreAlign's two fellowships. Proposed teams should be U.S.-based, and comprised of three to five individuals, including at least two alumni from CoreAlign's fellowship programs. We strongly encourage applications from people of color, LGBTQ people, people from the South and Central parts of the country and others from traditionally underrepresented communities.

Each team will fulfill a design challenge of their choice that addresses a complex reproductive movement issue related to ensuring that all people have the love, sex, family and community they desire. The problem that teams select for the design challenge should:

- Be a **shared concern** among all team members.
- Have solutions that would affect **more than one organization** (preferably the broader reproductive movement).

Teams will identify the movement-level problem they wish to solve in their proposal. Those accepted into the program will participate in the nine-month Innovation Lab to research, ideate and test projects to address this problem. Team participants will self-organize to carry out lab activities and CoreAlign will provide virtual support to aid teams in their progress. Teams will participate in a learning community with other lab participants and will be encouraged to convene in-person meetings to facilitate brainstorming and ideation.

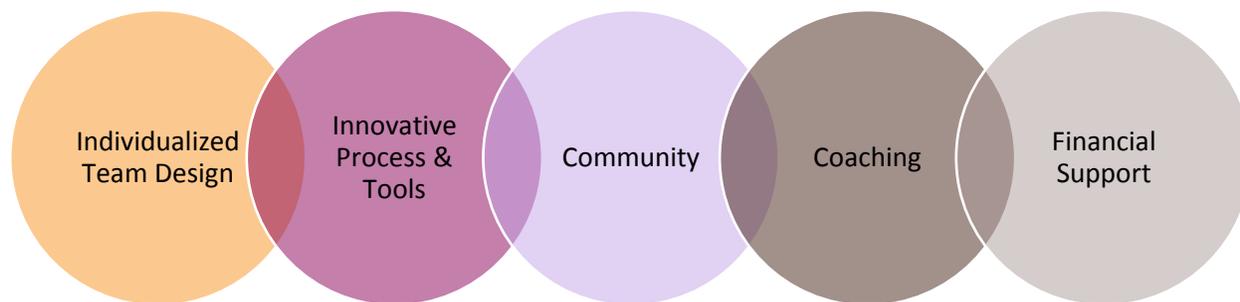
PROGRAM GOALS

By offering this Innovation Lab, CoreAlign seeks to:

- Facilitate collaborative problem-solving for former fellows seeking to sharpen or refine skills, in partnership with other fellows, colleagues and stakeholders.
- Foster experimentation and implementation of innovative ideas.
- Support the development of solutions that can address complex and deeply-entrenched reproductive movement issues.

PROGRAM FEATURES

Five key features of the Innovation Lab will support teams through the design challenge.



INDIVIDUALIZED TEAM DESIGN

Teams will select a project of their choice, self-organize and coordinate how and when they will meet and collaborate on their projects. Teams will develop a launch plan to guide their process, set goals, and coordinate meetings. Teams will assign team leaders/facilitators to help coordinate team activities.

Teams are encouraged to meet in person twice to carry out activities that are best facilitated in person. Team reimbursement funds can help support face time (see information below). Teams will also regularly meet virtually to check-in on progress with carrying out individual activities.

To help you assess the level of time commitment involved, we recommend planning for the following activities over the course of nine months:

- Meetings twice a month (around 2 hours each)
- Community webinars/web-meetings (90-120 minutes) every six weeks
- Three to four coaching sessions with a CoreAlign coach
- At least two in-person meetings
- Periodic story-sharing of the lab process with the larger CoreAlign community

In addition, individuals will likely work on assignments between meetings, and team leaders/facilitators will need to build in extra time to prepare for meetings, send reminders, etc. Members of the first round of lab teams shared that meeting more frequently helped to sustain momentum and progress with their design challenge.

INNOVATIVE PROCESS AND TOOLS

Tools and resources will support teams with generating ideas for solving their problems, designing solutions, and trying out experiments. CoreAlign will provide teams with resources to help facilitate team activities, including:

- Innovative design and practice tools for those interested in refreshing their skills and to help build understanding for those new to these practices.
- Sample agendas to help facilitate team meetings and touch points.
- Suggested activities for teams to carry out each phase of the design process.
- Worksheets and tools to guide process and facilitate sharing of progress.

COMMUNITY

The lab will feature a virtual learning community to help facilitate peer exchange, inspire ideas for innovation, share lessons and failures, and seed possibilities for deeper collaboration. The community is facilitated in three forums: peer coaching calls, online community and story-sharing with the broader CoreAlign community.

COACHING

Teams will have access to a CoreAlign coach to support teams with project development and experimentation. Teams are expected to connect with their coaches three to four times during the lab (coaches may be available more frequently upon request).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Each participating team is eligible to have **up to \$3,000** in approved lab-related expenses reimbursed. This will include travel costs (such as airfare) and other meeting-related expenses.

Specific information about allowable, reimbursable expenses will be provided at the informational webinar.

INNOVATION LAB ACTIVITIES & MILESTONES

Monthly benchmarks and milestones will help support teams towards meeting their goals. The lab is divided into phases with tools and community support structures in place to support successful projects. We have outlined the anticipated timeline and process flow below, however teams may move more quickly or slowly through the phases and may establish their own milestones. All teams will regularly share progress in virtual community forums related to the phase they are practicing.



Application Instructions

Please complete the online application by 12 p.m. PT on October 7, 2016.

Only one application needs to be submitted per team, but must include all team members' information. You will need to complete the following information in the online application:

1. **Proposed team:** Complete demographic information for each team member (typed directly into the online application, available at <http://www.corealign.org/innovation-labs.html>).
2. **Application questions:** Attach responses to the following questions and attach as a PDF within the online application (limit four pages):
 - **Question 1: Please describe the reproductive movement issue you wish to address.**
 - What is the problem you're seeking to solve, from the perspective of your end-users (or those most directly impacted)?
 - What are your assumptions about why this problem exists/persists?
 - How does this problem and any possible solution affect more than one organization in the movement?
 - **Question 2: Who is on your team and what are your shared interests?**
 - Tell us about your team members: how will you individually and collectively strengthen your collaborative efforts?
 - What are your shared interests and/or values?
 - What do you hope to achieve together?
 - **Question 3: How do you imagine collaborating within the Innovation Lab?**
 - What are the biggest challenges you currently anticipate for your effort, and how does your team plan to address them?
 - How will you prepare to collaborate, both virtually and in person? What steps will you take to ensure that you can work together effectively?
 - How regularly will you meet? When and in what format will your first meeting take place?

If you have questions or concerns about the application process, please contact Poonam Dreyfus-Pai, Senior Manager, Network Building and Engagement, at poonam@corealign.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHO SHOULD APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INNOVATION LAB?

People interested in participating in the Innovation Labs should:

1. Form U.S.-based teams of 3 to 5 people, including at least two alumni from a CoreAlign fellowship (either the Generative Fellowship or Speaking Race to Power). It is not necessary for team members to be located in the same place.
2. Propose addressing a complex, reproductive movement issue that aims to ensure that all people have the love, sex, family, and community they desire. The problem should also:
 - o Be a **shared concern** among all team members.
 - o Have solutions that would affect **more than one organization** within the broader reproductive movement.
3. Commit to participating in the lab and all required activities between November 2016-August 2017.

We strongly encourage applications from people of color, LGBTQ people, people from the South and Central parts of the country and others from traditionally underrepresented communities.

WHAT ARE THE DATES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE INNOVATION LAB?

The Innovation Lab Round 2 will run from **November 2016 through August 2017**. In brief, the Innovation Lab will support teams with addressing a design challenge of their choice (within established criteria) over the course of nine months. Monthly benchmarks and milestones will help facilitate team progress towards meeting their goals and the goals of the design challenge. To get an idea of the structure, check out the [participant packet](#) from Round 1 of the Innovation Lab.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LAB?

We are hosting an informational webinar on **Tuesday, September 13, 2016** (12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. PT; 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. MT; 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. CT; 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. ET). CoreAlign staff will share details of the program and answer questions; participants will also hear from past lab team members.

Curious about the first round of the Innovation Lab? [Check out the teams](#), the problems they're seeking to solve and their experiments!

WHAT DO WE NEED TO SUBMIT TO APPLY?

Go to the [Innovation Labs application](#) and submit the following by **12:00 p.m. PT on October 7, 2016**:

1. Fill out information about your team in the online application.
2. Respond to three application questions and attach to online application.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

Successful applicants will receive virtual training and support from CoreAlign staff, tools and resources to guide team process, and three to four sessions with a CoreAlign coach. Additional coaching and support may be available upon request if outlined in a team's launch plan.

Participating teams are eligible to receive reimbursement for **up to \$3,000** in approved lab-related expenses. Additional information about what is reimbursable and how to receive reimbursements will be provided at a later date.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED ACTIVITIES FOR THE LAB?

Participation in the lab includes having at least one team member join each of the following activities:

- Innovation Lab Launch Webinar – November 9, 2016 (11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. PT)
- Two team coaching sessions with a CoreAlign coach (as scheduled)
- Five community webinars to share progress (held approximately every 6 weeks over the 9 month period)
- Periodic sharing of progress and results both with the lab community and larger CoreAlign community
- Final sharing of learning from experiments in presentation and written form.

In addition, teams should plan to meet in person at least twice during the nine-month lab (prior to the conference).

While CoreAlign will provide tools, activities, and suggested milestones, teams will have the option to determine their own pace (move more quickly or slowly) and associated milestones. Those moving at a different pace are still expected to provide progress reports and participate in community activities.

WHAT ARE THE SHARING/REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?

Teams are expected to share their progress associated with the design phases and milestone activities according to the schedule outlined below.

1. **Team launch plan** to articulate collaboration plan and align resources (November 2016)
2. **Sharing stories of the process both within the lab community and with the larger CoreAlign community** using social media over the course of 9 months
3. **Present an exhibit of experiment(s)** and report on learnings.

WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS/TIMELINE?

Teams will be notified regarding whether they are selected to participate by October 31, 2016. CoreAlign staff may arrange to interview prospective lab teams to get a deeper sense of their interest in the program.

MORE QUESTIONS?

Contact Poonam Dreyfus-Pai, Senior Manager, Network Building & Engagement at poonam@corealign.org.