

PRO-MICROBE Exploration Topic
ARPA-H-MAI-24-01-06
Question and Answers (Q&A)
Organized by Category
August 30, 2024

PRO-MICROBE – General

Q1: What modalities should be used to collect microbial data (air, water, surface swabs, dirt, etc.)? Does data need to be collected from humans?

A1: Proposers should identify and justify the modalities they will use to collect data from the built environment. Proposers should select modalities that will allow them to correlate microbial data with building health (Stage I) and develop representative health indices and predictive models (Stage II). Proposers may choose to sample microbial communities from humans to inform modeling efforts, however, this cannot substitute for sampling the built environment. Data that should be collected from humans is the health outcome data that will be used to classify buildings as “healthy” or “unhealthy.”

Q2: What are the definitions of "healthy" and "unhealthy" buildings, and how are they determined?

A2: The PRO-MICROBE Module Announcement specifies that proposers should clearly define a “healthy” versus “unhealthy” building using health outcome data. Definitions may incorporate qualifying attributes such as the high prevalence of specific chronic diseases among occupants (i.e., unhealthy) or the increased likelihood of beneficial health outcomes exceeding a normalized baseline (i.e., healthy). Health outcomes may include, but are not limited to, respiratory illnesses (e.g., influenza, COVID, and asthma), immune disorders, or mental health disorders. Proposers are encouraged to develop definitions based on their proposed methodology and building applications.

PRO-MICROBE – Eligibility

Q1: We have an existing dataset of dust samples paired with health outcome data and other building/ environmental data. Is metagenomic analysis of these dust samples within scope?

A1: PRO-MICROBE is seeking solutions that iteratively sample buildings during Stage I. Existing datasets may inform these efforts, for example existing dust samples, but proposers should have access to buildings that will be sampled during the period of performance.

-----New Update as of August 30, 2024-----

PRO-MICROBE – General

Q3: Will there be an opportunity to received feedback on the scope of our proposed work prior to the full proposal submission deadline?

A3: No. The Government is unable to provide feedback on your proposed approach prior to proposal submission. However, the PRO-MICROBE Team will provide feedback on questions that are submitted to the Question and Answer (Q&A) link as outlined in the PRO-MICROBE Module Announcement (<https://solutions.arpa-h.gov/Ask-A-Question>).