The Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund

2027 Grant Cycle - Office Hours

BANK OF AMERICA

HEALTH RESOURCES IN ACTION

MEET OUR TEAM

Who We Are

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Agenda

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Program Overview

Mission

The Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund, established in 1947 by Frank M. Noonan in memory of his mother, continues its proud tradition of supporting improvements in the quality of life for children with disabilities. Eligible organizations and target populations must be within the Fund's geographic area of interest of Greater Boston.

Scope of Supported Work

The Noonan Research Fund supports innovative clinical and service system research, pilot, and evaluation projects in the greater Boston area, designed to improve the quality of life for children and adolescents with disabilities as reflected in the target population description.

2027 Cycle Timeline

Date	Event
December 2, 2026	Initial Application Deadline
Early March 2027	Full Stage Invitation
April 13, 2027	Full Stage Proposals Due
Summer 2027	Award Notifications
September 1, 2027	Award Funding Begins

Eligibility

Applicant or Project Team

- Seniority and/or area of expertise do not affect eligibility
- Must hold a position at a nonprofit institution or organization within the Fund's geographic area of interest
- Project team must speak to the inclusion of people with disabilities and the intersectionality with other marginalized identities on the research team.
- Neither an academic faculty position nor an advanced degree is required nor considered preferentially
- U.S. citizenship not required
- While not required for funding consideration, the Noonan Fund strongly encourages both new and established partnerships and welcomes proposals from community-based organizations

Target Population

- The target population includes children and adolescents (birth - 23 years old) with chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional disabilities who require a combination of special and/or interdisciplinary services, individualized supports, therapies, or other forms of services or supports that are of lifelong or extended duration.
- Majority (at least 60%) of project participants must reside within the Fund's geographic area of interest (majority in Greater Boston as defined in guidelines)
- Inclusive of women and minority groups

Exclusions

- Basic science, direct service, primary prevention projects, device development, drug trials
- Capital Costs

Budget Guidance

- $160,000 over 2 years
- Funds need to be equally distributed across each year of funding
- 20% indirect costs are allowable
- Funds may be used to support personnel, participant enrollment, small equipment purchases, supplies, travel, and other direct expenses that are needed for the project completion.

Program Emphasis

- Project addresses the **improvement in the quality of life** for children and adolescents with chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional disabilities.
- Project must provide comment regarding how outcomes of the proposed project and/or research will **advance health equity**.
- Project should include **intentional processes that integrate people with lived experience** in the decisions being made and meaningfully engage them in research activities that are meant to address the inequities they face.

Project Types

Pilot Project

- A project that is a small-scale test of an intervention where the primary objective is to evaluate feasibility, duration, effectiveness, and/or other possible issues before implementation on a broader scale.

Research Project

- A project where the primary objective is to test specific hypotheses about health and functional abilities of children with disabilities.

Evaluation Project

- A project that collects, analyzes, and uses data to examine the effectiveness and efficiency of a program and to contribute to continuous program improvement

Selection Criteria

All projects will be evaluated based on:

- The potential impact of the proposed work on the intended community.
- The extent to which the proposal seeks to advance health equity and racial and ethnic equity.
- The extent to which the proposal includes and meaningfully engages people with lived experience in the research design and implementation.
- The significance and originality of the proposed project.
- The approach actively engages the population of interest throughout the project period.
- The project can be accomplished within the funding period for a two-year award based on a proposed timeline.
- The dissemination of the findings will be shared with the community/population served and other notable stakeholders.

Selection Criteria

Applicant and/or Project Team

- The project complements or enhances the applicant's previous and future professional work
- The team is reflective of the population served and/or engaged in research
- Appropriateness of personnel or consultants with expertise in skills necessary for the project such as quantitative and/or qualitative data analysis

Proposal Quality

- Persuasive and well-organized proposal that effectively communicates how the project will address the stated need or problem

Application Tips

- Make sure your proposal reflects the review criteria and program goals
- Tell a story and provide explicit reasons and statements regarding why your proposed project is promising
- Recruit the right team: Include appropriate collaborations and/or shared leadership if it benefits the project

- Ensure key stakeholders include and center people with lived experience
- Be realistic – in scope, timeline, budgets, etc.
- Avoid jargon and abbreviations, define acronyms
- Be concise and clear - make it easy to read!
- Seek feedback - internally, externally, and across partnerships

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

- Depth of community engagement is not intentional or unclear
- No clear and actionable commitment to elevating health equity
- No lived experience representation in any personnel or key stakeholders
- No or limited description of sample size and statistics/evaluation methods

- Lack of clearly budgeting what is needed to execute project
- Unrealistic timeline
- Overlap in funding
- Not adhering to application instructions (submitting generic LOI, not using required templates)

Examples of Reviewer Feedback - Strengths

Impact & Significance

"Well-established organization seeking to expand on previous work and lay the groundwork for capacity building in the community. The potential impact for this project is large and will serve this community for years to come."

"The idea is original and has potential for great immediate impact in the Boston area, as well as impact in wide dissemination of the concept"

Approach

"The proposal shows a strong commitment to recruiting staff with lived experience."

"Dissemination of the findings will be shared with the population served and other notable stakeholders."

Budget & Feasibility

"I think it will be feasible within the program timeline. The recruitment plan is very good."

"The project includes clear, actionable goals."

Sample Size & Statistics

"The evaluation methods and approach are sound."

Examples of Reviewer Feedback - Strengths

Project Team

"The team is reflective of the population served and/or engaged in research."

"Strong research team, strong methodology, well qualified applicant but also surrounds themself with a team that is very appropriate."

Letter(s) of Collaboration

"Letter of Support reflects a supportive environment."

"Very strong, comprehensive

Proposal Quality

"The proposal clearly links the background information and proposed work."

"The research design, intervention and outcome measures are clear."

Examples of Reviewer Feedback - Concerns

Impact & Significance

"It isn't clear how this approach is different from programs already present."

"More information is needed regarding how the current approach is driving inequities, and how the proposed approach will advance health equity."

Approach

"A significant weakness is the absence of clear hypotheses."

"Have the investigators thought through language/access/time barriers?"

Budget & Feasibility

"The budget accounts for $XX,XXX for personnel. The budget should also reflect the time needed for family engagement."

"The timeline does not indicate who will be involved in recruitment, which is time intensive."

Sample Size & Statistics

"Sample size may be too small to yield actionable results."

"No discussion of sample size is offered and does not include inclusion/exclusion criteria."

Examples of Reviewer Feedback - Concerns

Project Team

"The proposal should include how this works builds upon their background."

"There is no indication in the proposal regarding the relationship between the primary applicant and organization/school/community service XXX."

Letter(s) of Collaboration

"The letter doesn't speak to how the organization will support the ongoing work in terms of facilities/training/mentorship/resources."

Proposal Quality

"The proposal feels rushed, maybe the applicant cut and pasted wording from another application into this proposal."

"The proposal could be improved by greater linkage between the background, significance, and the approach. It is hard to follow the logic."

Community Based Organizations

The Noonan Program encourages, but does not require, partnerships where the lead/primary contact organization for a project is a community-based organization (CBO). This is in order to help foster partnerships between CBOs and non-CBOs in capacity building to advance health equity.

Examples of community-based organizations

- Social service agencies
- YMCA or similar organizations
- Disability advocacy organizations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Formal and informal community groups:
  - Neighborhood groups
  - Recreational or special-interest clubs.

Examples of non-community-based organizations

- Municipalities
- Universities
- Hospital systems
- Quasi-governmental organizations
- For-profit companies or businesses.

Examples of CBO-led partnerships could include...

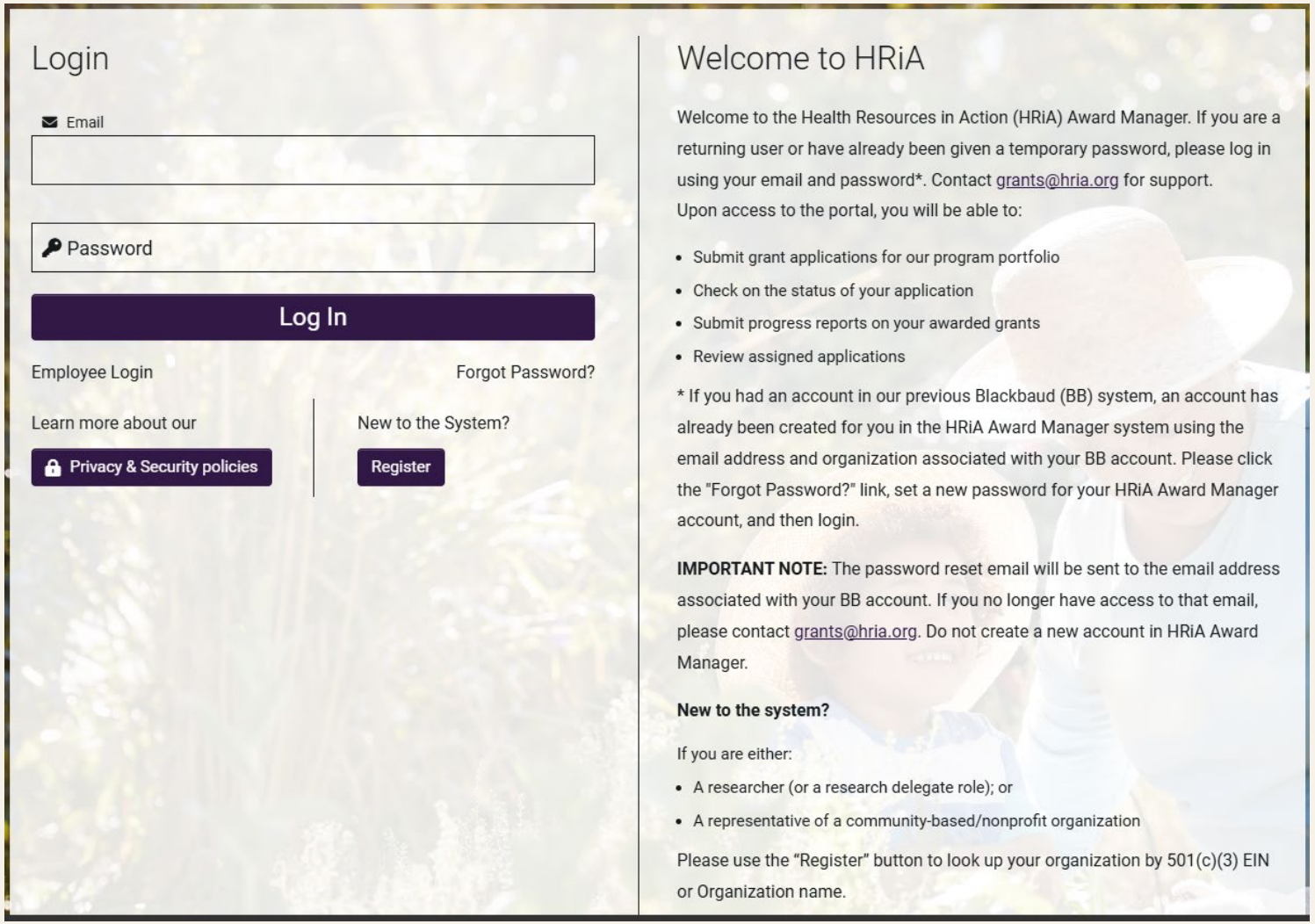
- The lead CBO partnered with an Academic organization:
  - **The CBO provided**: Project management, implementation and design, community & partnership building, logistical support, data collection & evaluation, co design of outputs
  - **The Academic Institute provided:** led provider/staff education, co design of outputs & materials, data dissemination, capacity building and consultation

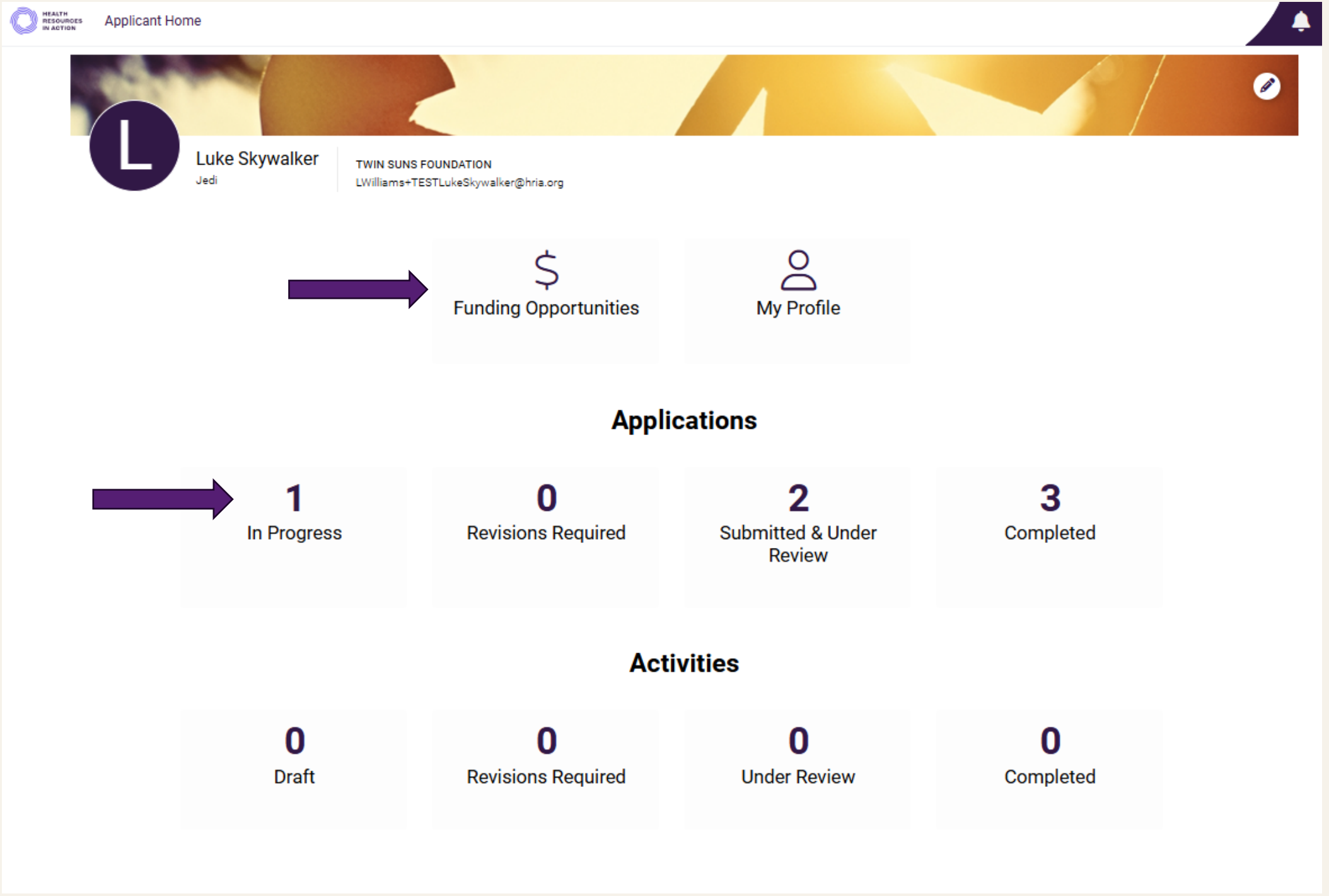
- The lead CBO partnered with a Research organization:
  - **The CBO provided**: Community engagement, capacity building, project management & design, implementation, data collection & co development of framework and tools
  - **The Research Institute provided:** Evaluation, dissemination of findings to stakeholders, qualitative research, facilitation of sessions & co development of framework and tools

- The lead CBO partnered with a Research organization:
  - **The CBO provided**: Project management & design community engagement, co design survey tools, data collection & analysis
  - **The Research Institute provided:** Design and implementation of the project evaluation, co design of survey tools & data collection

Application Portal - HRiA Award Manager

Accessing the system
https://hria.us-1.smartsimple.com/




Applicant Home
L
Luke Skywalker
Jedi
TWIN SUNS FOUNDATION
LWilliams+TESTLukeSkywalker@hria.org
Funding Opportunities
My Profile
Applications
1
In Progress
0
Revisions Required
2
Submitted & Under Review
3
Completed
Activities
0
Draft
0
Revisions Required
0
Under Review
0
Completed

Applicant Home

PAGE NAVIGATION

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- Invitations

Actions | Logs

2026-4828 Test Organization

Instructions

Noonan Research Fund

- Please complete the questions in each of the tabs below.
  - Use the **Save Draft** button to save your answers. Please note that there is *no auto-saving feature.*
  - Use the **Invitation** tab on the left to invite required individuals (if applicable).
    - Hospital/University System Applicants: In order to submit the application, you will need to assign an **Authorized Institutional Representative** using the Invitations tab on the left. The Authorized Institutional Representative will need to **accept the invitation and complete the Certification tab.**
  - Use the **Submit** button only once you have completed all tabs.
    - Only the Applicant will be able to submit the application.
    - If you are a Collaborator/Multi-PI you will be able to make and save edits, but will not see a submit button.
- Some information is copied directly from your organization and user profiles and will appear in a read-only state within this form.
  If the information displayed is not current, please update your organization and user profiles prior to completing and submitting this form.
- You can view your responses by clicking on the **PDF of Application** button.

Application Type: Noonan Research Fund

*** Applicant:** FeliciaTest ChenTest

Created By: FeliciaTest ChenTest

Submission Number: 4828

*** Organization:** Test Organization

Created Date: 10/26/2026 12:54 AM

Initial Stage Due Date: 12/02/2026 12:00 PM

PDF of Application

Application Tabs

PRIMARY CONTACT | ORGANIZATION INFORMATION | KEY PERSONNEL | PROJECT INFORMATION | ATTACHMENTS | CERTIFICATION

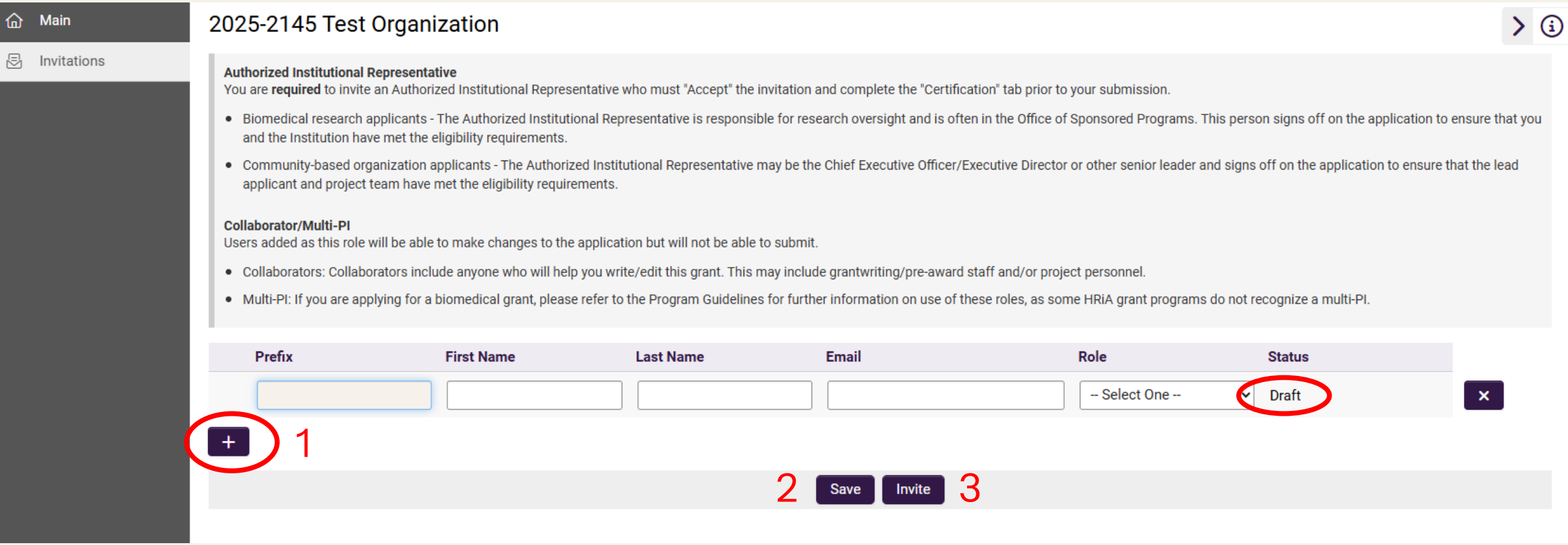
Update Contact Information

JUMP TO

Application Portal - HRiA Award Manager

Using the Invitations feature

System Role Name	Permissions/Requirements
Authorized Institutional Representative (pre-award)	Required to Certify application but cannot submit application
Collaborator (grant writing staff)	Has edit access but cannot submit application



Caution: Check-out error
This record has been checked out (DATE/TIME)

Solution: Communicate with those invited and ask them to log out!

Q&A

Thank you for attending

NoonanAwards@hria.org

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