

## Greater Value Portfolio Research Grant Awards to Highlight Opportunities to Increase Value in Healthcare

### Statement of Purpose

The Donaghue Foundation announces its 2018 Greater Value Portfolio grant program that will fund research projects for two years with a maximum amount of \$400,000 per award for the purpose of advancing promising approaches to achieve a higher value healthcare system. The goal of this program is to test approaches and tools that organizations can readily use to improve the value of the healthcare they provide to their patients and communities.

We believe value in healthcare is achieved with uniformly high quality outcomes and favorable patient experience for the money we spend. Symptoms of poor healthcare value include high and rising healthcare costs, unwarranted variation in prices, unacceptable variation in quality, and a lack of transparency in both price and outcomes. Investigators conducting research that expect to develop actionable solutions to one or more of these symptoms of low value healthcare are encouraged to apply to the Greater Value Portfolio program. Eligible topics include research that advances promising strategies in these areas:

- Reduce routine treatments, tests, and screenings for patients for whom the potential harms (including financial harm) outweigh potential benefits
- Provide tools to help consumers make decisions about their healthcare based on value in addition to other patient-centered factors
- Promote conversations between patients with serious illnesses and their clinicians about preferences and trade-offs related to alternative treatment options
- Reduce structural barriers and inefficiencies that impede improving value within systems or across healthcare settings
- Test models of care and coverage that address current financial disincentives for systemic change (i.e., paying for current programs with future savings or paying for programs that address social determinants of health with the savings from lowering expenditures related to clinical services)

### Eligibility Criteria

This program is open to investigators at tax-exempt research institutions in the United States. In order to receive the award, **the applicant must partner with an organization that delivers healthcare services.** The applicant must also provide evidence of the likelihood that positive research findings will be implemented by the partnering organization and others to bring greater value to health and healthcare. Acceptable partnerships include, 1) a researcher based at a research institution partnering with a healthcare organization, or 2) a researcher based in a research unit embedded within a health system.



Topics that are not considered relevant to the purpose of the program are efficacy trials, comparative effectiveness research that does not include cost analysis, basic research, or research using animal models.

You are invited to contact the Foundation with questions about eligibility, suitable research topics, or other questions about the Greater Value Portfolio program by emailing Stacy Cloud at [cloud@donaghue.org](mailto:cloud@donaghue.org).

### **What is Different This Year from Previous Greater Value Portfolio Awards**

For 2018, the Greater Value Portfolio program will place greater emphasis on research that is closely linked to ongoing improvement initiatives that are geared to achieving greater healthcare value in healthcare organizations. The applicant must partner with an organization that delivers healthcare services or be a researcher based in a research unit embedded in a healthcare organization and will be asked to describe 1) their proposed research question and methods, 2) how this study aligns with current improvement initiatives and strategic goals of the healthcare organization that is partnering with the principal investigator on this study, and 3) evidence of the principal investigator's and the partnering organization's ability and commitment to work together to implement new knowledge into practice and communicate new findings to audiences beyond scholarly publications. Equal weight will be given to each component in the review process.

Because of this closer link between the funded research and the potential for meaningful results to be used to help healthcare organizations achieve their strategic goals, the duration of the award will be two years rather than the three to five year duration of past Greater Value Portfolio awards. The maximum amount of the 2018 award will be \$400,000 plus a 10% indirect rate.

### **Funding Commitment**

The Foundation intends to make up to five *Greater Value Portfolio* awards in 2018. The Trustees will commit up to \$400,000 per award plus a 10% indirect rate to each selected investigator; the award duration is two years. A partial payment of the award will be made at the start of the first year, and the balance of the funding will be made at the start of the second year upon receipt of an accepted annual report from the investigator unless a clear reason for additional information or a reason for termination develops. No-cost extensions may be requested.

Grant funds may be used to support the research study, including the principal investigator's salary (consistent with the applicant institution's policy), project staff salaries, employee



benefits, laboratory and data processing supplies, and other direct expenses including equipment and research participant expenses; appropriate expenses of the partnering organization to facilitate their support of the research; and costs associated with disseminating research findings. The majority of the expenses are expected to support the research study.

Funds may *not* be used for:

- all or part of the salary and fringe benefits for secretarial or clerical assistance not related to the research
- any administrative costs including professional membership and subscriptions
- new construction or the renovation of existing facilities
- support of ongoing research projects not an integral part of the investigator's research program, except with express Foundation approval
- indirect cost of more than 10% of the direct cost of the project for either the applicant organization or any partnering or subcontracted organizations.

### **Timeline for Application Process**

The application process will have two phases. Phase 1 is a letter of intent, ***due no later than Thursday, May 3, 2018***. Following a review of all letters of intent, we will begin Phase 2 by inviting some applicants to complete a more substantial application.

May 3, 2018	Letters of intent due
Mid-May 2018	Notice of LOI decision
August 17, 2018	Applications due
November 1, 2018	Funding decisions will be made
December 1, 2018	Grant term begins

*For questions or further information, please contact Stacy Cloud at [cloud@donaghue.org](mailto:cloud@donaghue.org).*

### **Letters of Intent**

Submitted letters of intent are to briefly describe the research question and methods; the linkages between the research study and a partnering healthcare organization; and implementation approaches. Letters of intent are assessed for their eligibility by Foundation staff and then sent to an external panel of reviewers. ***The external reviewers will review the letters of intent without information as to the applicant and his or her institution***; only the core ideas will be considered at this stage. When the full applications are reviewed, however, all information contained in the application including applicants' bios and their institutions will be a part of the review process.



The letter of intent form includes all of the specific information that must be included in your LOI. The LOI form can be found on the Grants Opportunities page on our website at [donaghue.org](http://donaghue.org). **The form must be submitted electronically to [cloud@donaghue.org](mailto:cloud@donaghue.org) by the principal investigator no later than Thursday, May 3, 2018.**

### **Standards for Selection**

Letters of intent and application will be reviewed as to the relevance of the research topic and the goals of the program, importance of the research question and appropriateness of the methods; the demonstration of a strong collaborative working relationship amongst the researchers and the clinical or operational personnel who will be engaged in this project; the alignment of the research goals with the current initiatives and strategic goals of the partnering organization; and approaches to implementing the research findings into practice or policy.

Requested applications will be reviewed on the scientific merit of the research question and methods; the degree to which the past experience of the key personnel is related to the project activities, including efforts to integrate research findings into healthcare improvement; the alignment of the research goals with the current initiatives and strategic goals of the partnering organization; the appropriateness of the overall cost to the project goals and duration; and the project's potential for practical benefit in bringing greater value to health and healthcare.

***For additional information, please visit our website [donaghue.org](http://donaghue.org) to see all of the application materials for the Greater Value Portfolio grant program or contact Stacy Cloud at [cloud@donaghue.org](mailto:cloud@donaghue.org).***

### **About the Donaghue Foundation**

The Donaghue Foundation is a private medical research foundation located in West Hartford, Connecticut. The Foundation focuses on initiatives to strengthen research on health issues, to promote research leadership, and to put new knowledge to work for public benefit. The Foundation supports work in a wide range of disciplines aimed at improving mental and physical health, advancing clinical interventions and the delivery of health services, and improving community and public health status. The Foundation is particularly interested in funding research that has the potential for a direct, near term impact to improve health in supporting initiatives designed to promote the transfer of knowledge to useful applications.