

Greater Value Portfolio**Research Grant Awards to Highlight Opportunities to Increase Value in Healthcare****Statement of Purpose**

The Donaghue Foundation announces its 2017 Greater Value Portfolio grant program that will fund research projects for three, four or five years with a maximum amount of \$600,000 per award for the purpose of creating new approaches to achieving a higher value healthcare system. The goal of this program is to test new 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 health care is achieved with uniformly high quality outcomes and favorable patient experience for the money we spend. Symptoms of poor healthcare value are 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 concerning the following strategies:

- Efforts that significantly increase the value of traditionally high-cost procedures through mechanisms such as medical tourism or specialty treatment centers
- Methods or approaches that reduce routine treatments, tests, and screenings for patients for whom the potential harms (including financial harm) outweigh potential benefits
- Provide consumers with the tools to make decisions about their healthcare that are based on value in addition to other patient-centered factors
- Encourage providers and their patients with serious illnesses to engage in difficult conversations about preferences and trade-offs related to alternative treatment options
- Identify, highlight and resolve structural disincentives to greater value or inefficiencies within systems or across healthcare settings
- Create economic models that address current financial disincentives for systemic change (i.e., paying for current programs with future savings or paying for social determinants of health with the savings from lower clinical services)
- Worthy, inexpensive clinical interventions that are currently underused

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 demonstrate how their research question is important to relevant stakeholders, how answers to their questions will lead to practical benefit in bringing greater value to health and healthcare, and propose a rigorous research design.

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.

Funding Commitment

The Foundation intends to make three *Greater Value Portfolio* awards in 2017. The Trustees will commit to each selected investigator up to \$600,000 per award; the project duration may be for three, four or five years. Each award will be viewed by the Trustees as continuous funding conditioned upon appropriate periodic demonstration of progress and budget justification. Funding will continue annually upon receipt of an accepted annual report from the investigator unless a clear reason for additional information or a reason for termination develops.

Grant funds may be used to support the principal investigator's salary (consistent with the applicant institution's policy), project staff salaries, employee benefits, laboratory and data processing supplies, modest publication costs, and other direct expenses including equipment and research participant expenses when they are essential or appropriate for achieving the goals of the program. In addition, a maximum of \$5,000 for travel expenses to conferences focused on relevant stakeholders for the purpose of disseminating research findings is allowed. Equipment purchases must remain proportionate to the overall budget.

Funds may *not* be used for:

- all or part of the salary and fringe benefits for secretarial or clerical assistance
- 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

Timeline for Application Process

The application process will have two phases. Phase 1 is a letter of intent, **due by 5:00pm EST on May 1, 2017**. Following a review of all letters of intent, we will begin Phase 2 by inviting some applicants to complete a more substantial application.

May 1, 2017	Letter of intent deadline
July 31, 2017	Applications due
November 2017	Funding decisions will be made
January 2018	Grant term begins

For questions or further information, please contact Stacy Cloud at cloud@donaghue.org.

Letters of Intent

Submitted letters of intent are to briefly describe the research question, research methods, and implementation approaches. LOIs will be reviewed by Foundation staff, trustees, and members of the program's scientific review committee. **Letters of intent will be reviewed without information as to the applicant or 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. **The form must be submitted electronically to cloud@donaghue.org by the principal investigator by 5:00pm EST on May 1, 2017.**

Because the letters of intent phase is blinded, the Foundation cannot receive questions via phone calls. For questions or further information, please contact Stacy Cloud at cloud@donaghue.org.

Standards for Selection

Letters of intent and applications will be reviewed as to their alignment with the purpose of the program, 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 and goals, 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. In addition to a detailed research plan, invited applicants will be asked to provide a description of activities that will be undertaken during the grant term to facilitate dissemination and implementation of successful research findings.

For additional information, please visit our website donaghue.org to see all of the application materials for the Greater Value Portfolio grant program.

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.