

Frequently Asked Questions: FAQ questions have been compiled from queries previously submitted by applicants. Questions will be updated periodically

Q: What are the primary objectives of the GVP grant program in addressing the current challenges within the healthcare system, and what specific issues are research projects expected to focus on?

A: In the context of the GVP grant program, we prioritize the development of solutions to combat the symptoms of low-value care. Our focus is on fostering a healthcare system where quality, efficiency, and fairness are not just aspirations but achievements realized through the implementation of actionable solutions. Research projects should target and propose corrective measures for the following critical symptoms of low-value care:

- High and rising healthcare costs.
- Unwarranted pricing variations.
- Racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare access, costs, and outcomes.
- Excessive financial burden of care on patients and families.
- Consistency in the quality of care delivered.
- Price and outcome transparency in healthcare services.

How We Define Value

In 2022, AcademyHealth was granted an award by the Foundation to investigate the drivers and facilitators of high-value equitable care. This research agenda was driven by the need to address systemic barriers and improve health equity. This research provided insight to us to guide what we consider to characterize high-value healthcare. Visit [here](#) to learn more.

Q: What are eligible topics for research proposals submitted to GVP?

A: For consideration, research topics must demonstrate the potential to test or promote the following:

- Existing care models, coverage, and systems, proposing modifications that address inefficiencies, reduce healthcare costs, and eliminate unwarranted price variations.
- Unnecessary medical treatments, tests, and screenings, where potential harm or financial burden to patients may outweigh the benefits, promoting sustainable healthcare expenditure.
- Tools that assist consumers in making healthcare decisions grounded in value, considering costs and the spectrum of patient-centered factors, all aiming to ensure equitable access and high-quality care.
- New channels for patient-provider conversations that consider the trade-offs in treatment options, emphasizing transparent communication and the financial implications for patients and families.

- Interventions with a focus on delivering higher-value healthcare, particularly those that enhance equitable access, ensure consistent quality of care across diverse populations, and strive for pricing that mirrors the value of healthcare services.

Q: Given that the guidelines state that "...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. Partner organizations cannot be the applicant organization.", would a researcher be able to partner with another either in the host institution's college of medicine (academic medicine) or their Health system (mostly clinical medicine), or does it have to be a researcher and a completely different organization?

A: Your research team is welcome to collaborate with a different department, subsidiary, or entity within your broader organization, as long as it's not your immediate department. For instance, a Principal Investigator from Penn State College of Medicine could establish a partnership with the Penn State Cancer Institute.

Letters of Intent

Q: The LOI deadline for the Donaghue Foundation's grant program I am interested in applying to has passed. Is there another opportunity to submit to this program this year?

A: No other opportunities to submit an LOI are available until the next cycle, which happens once a year. If you are interested in subscribing to our newsletter to stay abreast of all future grant offering announcements, please send an email to chappell@donaghue.org.

Q: May I talk to someone at the foundation about my idea before the LOI deadline?

A: Due to our blinded LOI review process, the Foundation cannot receive questions via phone calls, so please be sure to email Shamira Chappell at chappell@donaghue.org with any inquiries. If a call is needed, we will schedule one with you. Correspondence regarding research proposal ideas is only utilized to help interested applicants ascertain if their project topics fit within the scope of the grant program. Communication at this stage does not provide applicants with feedback regarding other factors of their potential proposal.

Q: Can I submit more than one LOI?

A: Yes; however, if more than one LOI is approved, each PI will only be able to submit one application. We do not have a limit on the number of applications that we may request from an institution.

Q: Are there maximum word counts for each section?

A: The word limits on the online submission portal will be included for each question within the instructions or the help text beneath the text field.

Q: Does my partnering organization need to submit anything at the same time I submit my LOI? Do I need to add a letter of support from them in a separate document?

A: At the LOI stage, there is nothing needed from your partner organization(s). If invited to submit a full application, more detailed information regarding your partner organization(s) would be required.

Q: We are currently preparing an LOI. In the application, we reference evidence from our program and I am wondering if that published evidence should be included as reference documents. The evidence referenced will be helpful in understanding, however it will then not be anonymous.

A: Our suggestion would be to not include that information. At the LOI phase, we do not accept reference documents unless requested from the Foundation; however, if you are invited to submit a full application that information would be valuable. In your LOI, you could speak to the published evidence in a way that does not identify you, your institution, or your partnering organization.

Q: If an investigator is selected to submit a full proposal after the LOI review, I am curious to know the timeline for that investigator to receive a notice about the award. My understanding from your website is that the start date is January 1st, but would an investigator receive notice about their application before that date?

A: Typically applicants are notified within 4 weeks of a decision regarding their LOI. Notifications about grant awards are usually communicated in October to ensure the timely processing of funding agreements.

Application

Q: I know that LOIs are blinded the name of the partner organization should not be disclosed in the text of the letter of intent itself. Is that still true for the application or can I refer to it by name?

A: Our LOIs are blinded; however, our full applications are not. In that regard, you should disclose the names of all partner organizations and personnel within your full proposal.

Q: Would it be ok to have a co-investigator on my proposal who is submitting a proposal to Donaghue Another Look /GVP also?

A: Co-PIs are allowed on full applications; however, we do not allow individuals to serve as PIs on two separate grants. If both projects were selected for funding, the PI would have to choose one project to move forward with.

Q: Will the 27-page CV be accepted in place of the NIH Biosketch or should it be updated to the 5-page Biosketch?

A: We accept both CVs and the NIH Biosketch. We defer to our applications to choose which is most suitable for them. A 27-page CV will be accepted; however, if the number of pages could be condensed our external reviewers would greatly appreciate that.

Q: Do I need both a letter of support and a Biosketch/CV from the project lead and project statistician, or just one or the other?

A: You should include a Biosketch/CV from both the project lead and project statistician. Our external reviewers utilize this information to help ascertain if: 1) the types of personnel and their time commitments

are appropriate for this study, and 2) the key personnel from the partnering organization are the appropriate ones to be working with this study. Letters of support should be limited to only those that are required.

Q: Is there a salary cap for a base salary like NIH?

A: We currently do not have a salary cap.

Q: Can we collect 10% on the direct cost including equipment?

A: Indirect costs may be requested by the applicant institution, not to exceed 10% of direct costs exclusive of equipment purchases. Collaborators and subcontractors may also include overhead costs, not to exceed 10% of the subcontractor's direct costs exclusive of equipment purchases. However, indirect costs may not be claimed by the applicant institution for direct costs which are used in the subcontractor's budget.

Q: Our project has two PIs. I submitted the LOI with my name and my colleague as Co-PI. Is it acceptable if we submit the full proposal with my co-PI as leading PI and me as co-PI? There is no change in the PI-ship because we proposed two PIs in the LOI.

A: On the application in the submission portal there is an opportunity to select if you have multiple PIs. It will then prompt you to input the requested information for the co-PI.

Q: Should we include our manuscript related to our proposed research as a supplemental publication or is that not helpful? Should we just include the accepted abstract?

A: You can include the manuscript as a supplemental publication; however, you should indicate that this publication has been submitted but has not yet been accepted.

Q: The introduction/background & limitations sections each have 500-word limits. Are there any word or page limits for the research methods, organizational partner description, and knowledge transfer sections?

A: Word limits are only applicable for sections that are indicated.

Q: The online application we reviewed asks for the PI's signature in the document and the institutional officer's in the text box, while the instruction PDF says the form should be signed by the PI and IO. Please clarify where the IO signature should go.

A: On the Project Certification PDF there are clearly outlined fields indicating where each individual's name and signature should be documented. The institutional officer who signs the form needs to have the credentials to support the candidacy and provide assurances to the foundation regarding institutional support on behalf of the host institution.

Q: I am preparing a full proposal. Is there any possibility of making a little change to the full proposal? For example, I did not propose an educational component. Can I add it to the full proposal? How many changes are acceptable?

A: You can add to your proposal as long as it does not completely change the overall purpose of your intended research. We realize that the letter of intent is limiting so all aspects of your research might not be included in

this preliminary stage. In short, you can add additional components to your proposal if you believe it will strengthen its value.

General

Q: Can I apply for one of your grant programs if we have not submitted a letter of intent?

A: Applicants must be invited to submit a full application which is based on the contents of their letter of intent.

Q: Is there a maximum grant amount? How many grants are you planning to award?

A: We expect to make four or five grants and spend approximately \$750,000. The amount of grants awarded is contingent upon our extensive review process, the proposed budgets of selected applications, and final decisions from our trustees. Applications with larger budgets are encouraged to make a compelling justification for the proposed budget.

Q: Does the grant award include an allotment for indirect costs?

A: Yes. The Foundation will allow up to a maximum of 10% indirect on top of the grant award.

Q: We have a PI who was invited to submit a full proposal last cycle but ultimately wasn't selected for funding. Are they able to re-apply this year?

A: Yes, we do allow re-submissions; however, all PIs who are re-applying must still follow the full application process starting from the letter of intent. If invited to submit a full application, it is extremely beneficial to implement the feedback that was provided by our external reviewers.

Q: Can prior awardees re-apply with a new project in mind?

A: Yes, prior awardees are eligible to apply. We also have our R3 grant opportunity which is open to previous and current Donaghue grantees. We also allow resubmissions of previous applications that were unsuccessful; however, we do require these to go through the same process as first-time applicants. We expect that the feedback provided by our external reviewers will be implemented into the revised application.

Q: What is the success rate if the proposals are invited for full application?

A: Applicants have about a 25%-30% chance of being offered a grant award. As a disclaimer, this probability varies by cycle based on a multitude of factors.

Q: I recently successfully defended my dissertation and will be graduating with my PhD. I am not a faculty member but I am actively involved in spearheading research endeavors in the hospital and have obtained grant funding over the past recent years. In addition, I am part of the faculty at another institution. Taking all of this into consideration, would I be eligible to apply for the Donaghue grant opportunity?

A: At this time you are ineligible to apply. We require PIs to be faculty members at their institution and have their terminal degree conferred before applying. If you were still interested in applying, a faculty member at your institution would serve as the PI and you could serve as a co-I.

Submission Portal

Q: For some reason, I am unable to access the proposal submission portal through any of the links provided in the proposal instructions. Is a permission required?

A: Please double-check that you are using this URL: https://webportalapp.com/sp/df_signature_grant. If you are still experiencing difficulties please contact Shamira Chappell via email at chappell@donaghue.org.

Q: Am I able to bold, italicize, underline, or bullet text on the submission portal?

A: At this time no typographical emphasis is supported on the submission portal. In addition, superscripts and subscript text are also not currently available. To reference sources throughout your proposal please use numbers in parentheses.