

Greater Value Portfolio

Research Grant Awards to Highlight Opportunities to Increase Value in Healthcare

Key Dates

The application process has two phases. Phase 1 is a letter of intent. Following a review of all letters of intent, we begin Phase 2 by inviting some applicants to complete a more substantial application.

May 30th, 2024	Letter of intent deadline
September 4th, 2024	Invited applications due
January 1st, 2025	Grant term begins
In 2024, the Foundation expects to make four awards. The duration of the award is two years.	

Program Goal

This program aims to test approaches and tools that organizations can readily use to improve the value of their healthcare to patients and communities. The Greater Value Portfolio grant program funds research projects for two years with a maximum amount of \$400,000 per award (plus a 10% indirect cost rate) to advance promising approaches to achieving a higher-value healthcare system.

Program Attributes

The Greater Value Portfolio program emphasizes research closely linked to ongoing improvement initiatives to achieve greater value in healthcare organizations. To receive the award, 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.

Symptoms of Low-Value Care

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.
- Inconsistency in the quality of care delivered.
- Lack of price and outcome transparency in healthcare services.

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.

Who May Apply

This program is open to PhD, MD, (or equivalent) investigators at tax-exempt research institutions in the United States. To receive an award, 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. A fuller description of eligible applicant institutions is in the detailed program description below. Grantees may use this award to augment funding for a project already funded through another grant.

The Donaghue Foundation's Greater Value Portfolio (GVP) grant program is committed to propelling the healthcare system towards greater value, awarding up to \$400,000 (plus a 10% indirect cost rate) per project over two years. We aim to cultivate high-value healthcare strategies that organizations can implement effectively to enhance patient and community care.

We invite researchers to propose innovative solutions that contribute to an elevated healthcare system where value, including cost-effectiveness and patient-centered care, is paramount. Research should aim to advance models of care, insurance coverage, and healthcare systems that prioritize value, improve care delivery outcomes, and ensure equitable access for all demographics.

Eligibility Criteria

This program is open to PhD (or equivalent) investigators at tax-exempt research institutions in the United States. To receive an award, 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. The detailed program description below contains a fuller description of

eligible applicant institutions. Grantees may use this award to augment funding for a project already funded through another grant.

The applicant organization must be a 501(c)3 research institution. Donaghue requires that the applicant organization has adequate infrastructure to assure:

- Ethical conduct of research, protection of research participants, and appropriate data protections
- Financial monitoring of grant awards and administering any related subcontracts
- Resources to assist the principal investigator with dissemination activities

Additional material may be requested at the letter of intent stage from applicants whose organization does not have clear evidence of these capacities on their website.

Application Process

The application process has two phases. Phase 1 is a letter of intent. Following a review of all letters of intent, we begin Phase 2 by inviting some applicants to complete a more substantial application. All application materials and instructions for the Greater Value Portfolio grant program are on our website.

Standards for Selection

Letters of intent will be evaluated on the relevance of the research topic to achieving greater value, the importance of the research question, the appropriateness of the methods; the partnership between the researchers and the clinical or operational personnel who will be engaged in this project.

Invited applications will be evaluated on the scientific merit of the research question and methods; the degree to which the experience of the key personnel is related to the project activities, including efforts to integrate research findings into healthcare improvement; 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.

The applicant will be asked to describe the following:

1. How their proposed research will contribute to improving value in healthcare
2. Their proposed research question and methods, including how value will be assessed
3. How their study supports the healthcare organization's goals and that there's a joint commitment with the partnering organization to apply and share the research outcomes widely.
4. The structure of the proposed budget and its alignment with the project's objectives and the budget guidelines.
5. How their research will contribute to health equity

External reviewers critically review all components of the application. The Foundation requires applicants to demonstrate that they have reviewed their research questions, protocols, sampling, and data analyses to ensure that they do not inadvertently mask or exacerbate racial, ethnic, or gender health inequities. Topics that are not considered relevant to the purpose of the program are efficacy trials, 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 Shamira Chappell at chappell@donaghue.org.

Funding Commitment and Permitted Use of Funds

The Foundation intends to fund up to five Greater Value Portfolio awards in 2024. The Trustees will commit up to \$400,000 per award (plus a 10% indirect rate) to each selected investigator. Because of this close 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 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. 1-year no-cost extensions may be requested.

Grant funds may be used to support the following:

- The principal investigator’s salary (consistent with the applicant institution’s policy), project staff salaries, and employee benefits
- Data processing expenses, 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

Funds may *not* be used for:

- All or part of the salary and fringe benefits for 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 is not an integral part of the investigator’s research program, except with express Foundation approval
- Indirect costs 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 to the Foundation by May 30, 2024**. Following a review of all letters of intent, we will begin Phase 2 by inviting some applicants to complete a more substantial application.

May 30 th , 2024	Letters of intent due
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For additional information, please click [here](#) or contact Shamira Chappell at Chappell@donaghue.org. The review committee will not consider submissions that do not comply with all requirements. The submission portal can be accessed [here](#).