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.
- Consistency in the quality of care delivered.
- Price and outcome transparency in healthcare services.

Standards for Selection

Applications will be evaluated on the alignment of the research aim with the program's goal; 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 appropriateness of the overall cost to the project goals and duration; health equity considerations and the project's potential for creating greater value in healthcare.

Application Format:

Complete the following steps only after receiving an invitation to submit an application. Submissions that do not comply with all requirements will not be considered by the review committee. The submission portal can be accessed here. The application includes forms as well as narrative sections that must all be completed according to instructions. Please refer to the Application Summary Checklist (at the end of this document) before submitting your application to ensure you have provided all requested information.

Applicants must submit their application electronically to the Foundation's submission portal (which can be accessed by clicking [here]) by September 18th, 2024. The following supplemental documents will be uploaded to the submission portal where indicated within the application form.

1. All letters of support should be housed in one PDF file labeled "PILast Name_df_letters of support." Letters should contain signatures and be uploaded to the portal
2. All CVs/Biosketches should be housed in one PDF file labeled "PILastName_df_CVandbiosketches"
3. All publications should be housed together in one PDF file labeled "PILastName_df_publications."

If you have any questions about the submission requirements, please contact Shamira Chappell at [chappell@donaghue.org].

Section 1

Application Face Sheet
The form provided must be signed by the principal investigator and responsible institutional officer.

Section 2: Project Summary

a. Applicants should be aware that this section may be used by the Donaghue Foundation in newsletters, annual reports, and social media for those projects that are awarded a grant. This summary must not exceed 250 words and must include the following:

   1. Research goal(s), aims, and how the proposed project addresses value in healthcare
   2. Description of the partnering healthcare organization
   3. What approaches do you anticipate using to implement research findings into practice and policy if the implementation is deemed warranted?

b. **Glossary of Acronyms and Abbreviations**
   Provide an alphabetical list of acronyms and abbreviations used in the application along with the full word or phrase.

Section 3: Project Description

If there are any figures or tables to include please upload them where indicated within the application form. Supplemental material (including appendices) will not be accepted, except for copies of unpublished or less well-known instruments proposed for use.

Provide the following information in this order:

Introduction, background, and significance of the project topic **(500-word limit)**.

What issue does your research address, and how do you define and measure 'value' in the context of this issue?

Help Text: In 500 words or less, describe the significance of the health issue and the current state of knowledge. Explain how your project will contribute to a higher-value healthcare system, defining the value metrics you will employ.

• Identify the health issue that is the focus of your research. What population is affected, and what are the known impacts of this issue on individual and community health?
• Explain why this health issue is significant. What are the gaps in current healthcare practices or policies that your research aims to address?
• Define what 'value' means in the context of your research. How does this definition align with the broader goals of improving healthcare?
• Detail the criteria or indicators you will use to measure 'value' concerning the health issue (e.g. cost-effectiveness, patient outcomes, quality of life, etc.)
• Describe the methods you will use to evaluate whether your research has achieved 'value' as defined. How will you gather and analyze data to assess the impact of your work?

Research study **(Letter each section A through C)**

a) What validated methods and analyses will you use to ensure the reliability and validity of your research findings?

Help Text: Detail your research plan, including the study design, population recruitment strategies, sample size justification, and analytical methods. Mention any software for statistical analysis and approaches for data handling and hypothesis testing.

- What specific research methodologies have you selected for your study? Please justify their selection in terms of reliability and validity.
- Describe the instruments or tools you will be using in your research. How have these been validated in previous studies, and how will they be applied in the context of your study?
- Which statistical or analytical techniques will you apply to your data? Detail how these techniques are suitable for ensuring the robustness of your findings.
- Explain the steps you will take to ensure the reliability of your data collection and analysis. Will there be repeated measures, use of control groups, or other methods?
- How will you ensure the validity of your findings? Discuss any planned triangulation of data sources, validation studies, or cross-checks against established datasets.
- How will you interpret the results of your analysis to support the validity of your research findings? What criteria will you use to evaluate the success of your research outcomes?

b) Describe the data you will be using in your research. Include the purpose of the data, how and when the data were or will be collected, any checks used to assure the validity of the data, and any nonrandom biases that might impact the data.

1. Describe the review done to ensure that research questions, protocols, sampling, and data analyses do not inadvertently mask or exacerbate racial, ethnic, or gender health inequities.
2. Describe who owns the data and, if you are not the owner, what assurances you have that you will be able to use and publish from the data.

c) Describe any planned opportunities for co-design or planned approaches to re-assess the intervention if warranted throughout the study period.

Integration between the research team and partnering organization

How do the partnering organization's strategic goals align with your research objectives, and what resources have they committed?

Help Text: Discuss how the partner organization's initiatives intersect with your research goals, and outline the collaborative relationship, resources provided, and mutual benefits.

- Identify and describe the strategic goals of the partnering organization. How do these goals intersect with the aims of your research project?
- Explain how your research objectives will contribute to the advancement of the partnering organization's strategic goals. Are there specific targets or benchmarks your project aims to achieve that support these goals?
- What specific resources, inclusive of personnel, technology, and financial investments, has the partnering organization pledged to the research project?
- Describe how the resources provided by the partnering organization will be utilized in the research. How do these resources facilitate the achievement of your research objectives?
- Discuss the expected mutual benefits for both your research project and the partnering organization. How will the collaboration enhance both parties' strategic objectives?

Knowledge transfer and integration or implementation activities

What strategies will you employ to transfer the knowledge gained from your research into practice and policy?

Help Text: Explain your plans for disseminating research findings during and post-study, including any activities aimed at promoting evidence incorporation into clinical or operational change

- How do you plan to disseminate the findings of your research to both the scientific community and the wider public?
- Which stakeholders (e.g., healthcare professionals, policymakers, public health entities) will you engage with, and what methods will you use to involve them in the knowledge transfer process?
- What specific approaches will you take to implement the research findings into practice? This could include pilot programs, workshops with practitioners, or integration into clinical guidelines
- How will you present your research findings to relevant stakeholders to inform and potentially change healthcare delivery, operations, and policy?
- How will you measure the effectiveness of the knowledge transfer, and how will you adapt your strategies based on feedback and results?

Limitations

This section should not exceed 500 words. Discuss identified anticipated limitations of the research based on study design and other factors. Please describe each identified limitation in accordance with criteria 1-4 listed below. Criteria 1 and 2 should be written in narrative format, and criteria 3 and 4 can be written in narrative or list format at the discretion of the researcher.

1. Anticipated limitations
2. Factors influencing limitations
3. Alternative approaches/strategies for mitigating limitations
4. The extent to which these limitations could impact the results of the study, or provide an opportunity for additional research

References and Citations

Upload a PDF file containing references and citations for preliminary research.

Section 4: Project Milestones and Key Activities

List milestones and key activities to be completed during the grant term. These relate to both the research component and any activities conducted during the duration of the award that will facilitate knowledge transfer and implementation of findings when the study is completed.

Help Text:
- Identify critical research phases such as literature review, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation of results. Provide estimated completion dates for each phase and define specific objectives that mark progress toward your overall research goal.
- Detail the primary activities associated with each milestone. This could include tasks like conducting surveys, performing experiments, or developing models. Explain how these activities are essential to achieving each milestone.
- List the stages of your knowledge transfer plan, starting from initial engagement with stakeholders to the final dissemination of results. Include timeframes for activities such as stakeholder meetings, preparation of policy briefs, and public communications.
- Explain how you will monitor the success of both research and implementation activities. Describe the metrics or indicators you will use to evaluate progress towards each milestone and the overall effectiveness of the knowledge transfer.

Section 5: Annual Budget

The Donaghue Foundation will fund only those costs specific to conducting the proposed activities described in the application. The Foundation will not pay to support facilities, equipment, or salaries that are already supported through other funding mechanisms. Donaghue grant funds may not be intentionally applied for or used by any department or principal investigator when there are funds currently allocated or available for the proposed project (or which appear to be reasonably assured) from other sources. See "Funding Commitment and Permitted Use of Funds" in the Greater Value Portfolio program description for additional information on funding policies.

The Foundation is willing to collaborate with other funding sources in support of a project, provided that the Foundation is given assurance that the aggregate of funding does not exceed the project's costs. For budgetary purposes, the applicant may designate the partnering organization as a subcontractor. Any organization that is listed as a funding collaborator or a subcontractor must attest to its intent to participate in the project in letter form as part of this application. The letter must be signed by an authorized representative from the partnering organization and state the organization's intent to comply with the requirements of the research plan, Foundation grant conditions, and their capacity to provide the resources and/or personnel specified. (See Section 9 "Letters of Support.")

The request for Donaghue Foundation funding must be clearly accounted for in each budget category in the budget request forms that follow. A detailed description of the use of funds must be provided in the Budget Justification narrative and clearly specify any parts of the budget that will be used to support knowledge uptake components as described in Section 3 of the project description. If the proposed

project will be supported in part by other funders, use the Budget Justification to list these sources and amounts of funds.

Project costs associated with the use of subcontractors must be itemized in the category labeled Other Expenses on the budget forms.

Annual Budget Form- Complete the form showing the funds requested from the Donaghue Foundation according to the breakouts described below for each 12-month period of funding.

Personnel: All team members should be listed here. Requested salaries should be for full- or part-time professionals or technical assistants who are normally paid from the research projects to which they are assigned. The Donaghue Foundation does adhere to the NIH salary cap guidelines.

Note: Team members should be listed in the personnel category along with the principal investigator. *If a team member is from a different institution or organization*, only list their name, role, and percentage of effort in the personnel category, all cost information should be included in the "other expenses" category.

Note: the percent effort on a project may exceed the percent of the total amount requested, but the percentage of the total requested may not exceed the percent effort.

Equipment: Requests for items of equipment will be evaluated on their merit in relation to their importance to the project.

Supplies: Supplies included in the budget must be required for the conduct of the research project.

Travel: Funds to cover the cost of travel required for the research project may be included.

Participant Costs: Include expenses related to participant reimbursement and other clinical and/or project costs related to their participation in the research.

Other Expenses: Use this category to list all other project expenses including those assigned to subcontractors. Itemize all subcontractor costs by category.

Indirect Costs: 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.

a. **Total Cost for Proposed Project** - Roll up annual costs for each project year.

b. **Budget Justification** - Provide a brief and clear explanation of all significant expenses in the budget.

Section 6: Health Equity

> **Disclaimer:** This is our first cycle implementing a health equity section in our application. There may be minor modifications or additional information requested if our health equity reviewers need more details to effectively evaluate this portion of your application.

Describe how your project addresses health equity. Use the questions below to describe a thorough plan and commitment to health equity in the design and execution of your proposed project. All questions are required.

Your responses should:
- Thoroughly demonstrate a clear plan and commitment to health equity.
- Outline specific actions, engagement strategies, and the metrics you will use to measure success.
- Show an understanding of the populations your project will serve, with a detailed explanation of how you will ensure inclusivity and access.

- **Question 1: Outline your plan for involving communities affected by health disparities in the research design to ensure their meaningful participation. How will you incorporate community input, address inclusivity, and overcome barriers faced by marginalized populations to ensure equitable access to healthcare interventions? (250 word limit)**

Describe your plan to involve communities impacted by health disparities in the research design, ensuring meaningful participation and input. Explain your strategy to ensure equitable access to healthcare interventions for marginalized populations.

- Question 2: Describe how your project demonstrates cultural humility. In what ways does the research consider cultural nuances that may influence health outcomes, and how will you ensure cultural sensitivity throughout the study? (150 word limit)

Illustrate how your project will be culturally sensitive and address cultural influences on health outcomes.

- Question 3: Explain how your project addresses health literacy concerns among diverse populations. What strategies will be employed to ensure that information is accessible and understandable to individuals with varying levels of health literacy? (150 word limit)

Explain your approach to making your research understandable across various levels of health literacy.

- Question 4: Outline your project's strategies for mitigating potential biases in the research process. Provide details on how these strategies will be implemented and monitored to confirm that biases have been successfully minimized. (200 word limit)

Detail strategies to minimize bias in your research, and describe how you will monitor their effectiveness.

- Question 5: Detail your plan for data disaggregation by relevant demographic factors (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, etc.). How will you ensure the collection and analysis of disaggregated data to identify potential health disparities? (200 word limit)

Specify how you will collect and analyze data by demographic factors to uncover health disparities.

- Question 6: Describe how your project considers specific social determinants of health. Provide insights into how these determinants are integrated into the research framework and their role in shaping health outcomes. (250 word limit)

Discuss how your research will consider social determinants of health and their impact on outcomes.

Section 7: Research Ethics

In a brief statement, please provide evidence of the Principal Investigator's specific education or training in research ethics, with specific attention to (1) protection of human research subjects, (2) avoidance of scientific misconduct, and (3) avoidance of conflicts of interest. If the PI is a clinician, please provide evidence of conversancy with health care ethics. If other personnel in the study have human subject responsibilities, reference their training as it relates to this function. Please also briefly describe your data security and monitoring plan.

Section 8: Informed Consent of Human Subjects

Safeguarding the rights and welfare of human subjects in projects supported under awards from the Donaghue Foundation is of foremost importance and is the sole responsibility of the grantee institution or organization accountable for the funds awarded and administratively responsible for the conduct of the project. For the application, a draft or approved copy of the form(s) which will be used to obtain the informed consent of human subjects must be uploaded to accompany the proposal. A copy of any clinical treatment protocols that will be used in the study must be available upon request for review by the Foundation's review committee.

Section 9
Supplemental Materials

Please upload the following:
1) **Letters of Support (attach in a separate PDF file)**

a. A letter from the principal investigator's department or section head who can attest to and monitor the PI's work, time commitments, and activities. The letter must indicate the principal investigator's qualifications to conduct the proposed research at the sponsoring institution and the level of commitment by the institution to support the researcher. The nature of the appointment or other relationship, salary commitment if any, research time and space available, and amount of the researcher's time to be spent on the project must be explicitly stated. This letter must make clear the nature of the close and continuous collaborative relationship that exists between the principal investigator and the institution such that the continuity and depth of involvement are clear.

b. Letter from the partnering organization that attests to and confirms the information provided in Section 3 (Integration between the research team and partnering organization, and knowledge transfer and integration or implementation activities)

c. Letter from the key team members that describe their support and relationship with the project.

d. Letter of support from any cooperating organization other than the partnering organization(s).

All letters of support should be housed in one PDF file labeled "PILast Name_df_letters of support." Letters should contain signatures.

2) **Curriculum Vitae (attach in a separate PDF file)**

Curriculum vitae (abbreviated) for the principal investigator and for the team members must accompany the application using the NIH biosketch format. If a member of the team does not have a curriculum vitae, please provide a resume. All CVs and or biosketches should be housed in one PDF file labeled "PILastName_df_CVandbiosketches"

3) Publications (attach in a separate PDF file)

You may include up to three publications that will assist the Foundation's review committee in evaluating the principal investigator's ability to perform the work described. All publications should be housed together in one PDF file labeled "PILastName_df_publications."

All applications not in compliance with the above requirements are ineligible for review. To be considered, applications must be submitted to our submission portal by September 18th, 2024. For further information on the application procedures and forms, please visit our website at http://www.donaghue.org/ or email Shamira Chappell at chappell@donaghue.org.

Component	Section #	Check (√)
Project Title	1	
Project Summary	2	
Glossary of Acronyms and Abbreviations	2a	
Project Description	3	
Project Milestones and Key Activities	4	
Annual Budget(s)	5	
Total Cost for Proposed Budget	5a	
Budget Justification	5b	
Health Equity	6	
Research Ethics Preparation	7	
Informed Consent of Human Subjects	8	
Supplemental Materials		
Letters of Institutional Support	9	
Curriculum Vitae		
Publications		