



Another Look 2020: Research to Improve Health for Older Adults in Long Term Care Facilities

Introduction

Following a year-long review of current trends and issues in the field of long term services and supports, the Donaghue Foundation is pleased to relaunch the Another Look grant program in 2020, which provides funding for research that has the near term potential to improve quality for older adults living in long term care facilities. Between the start of the program in 2013 and 2018, the Another Look grant program has supported 30 grants with a total of \$4 million dollars in funding.

The Foundation is aware of recent trends that are shifting the delivery of long term care services to home and community-based settings, and we recognize the benefits these approaches are offering to older adults, their families, and caregivers. However, we've concluded that a focus on improving the quality and delivery of services in nursing homes, assisted living, and other congregate care facilities to long term care residents age 65 and older, is still very much needed. This setting will continue to be the focus of the Another Look grant program.

Two key requirements of the Another Look grant program remain the same as in past years. Researchers must use already existing datasets for the research being conducted and must include stakeholders from clinical, programmatic or policy arenas on their project team to help inform the research.

What's New for 2020

The Another Look grant program will now allow researchers to allocate some grant funds to the collection of new data if it will enhance the utility of the project outcomes for improving quality of care. Applicants will be asked to provide more extensive information on the role of the stakeholders with whom they will be collaborating on the project. The external review committee evaluating letters of intent and applications to this program will include experts from both the academic and practice and policy communities.

Program Overview

This program provides funding for health-related research projects that can improve the quality of care and the quality of life for adults who are 65 year or older and who are long term residents living in nursing homes, assisted living, and other congregate care facilities.

This program requires researchers to rely on existing datasets to address the research question they seek to answer. Limited collection of new data is allowed in this program if it will enhance the utility of the project outcomes to improve quality in care facilities.

Researchers applying for this grant must include a stakeholder in the care delivery or policy arena with whom they will collaborate and who is willing to work with the researcher to develop products such as infographics, tool kits or training materials that are based on the research findings and could be used by those stakeholders to improve quality of care or quality of life for residents in long term care.

The Foundation welcomes all topics related to improving quality in long term care facilities but is particularly interested in supporting research focused on high priority issues that were identified through an environmental scan recently conducted by the Foundation. These high priority topics are:

- increasing the availability and use of palliative, end of life, and hospice care
- assessing the impact of innovations in staffing roles and expertise on resident quality of life
- assessing the role of family members and informal caregivers on resident quality of life
- understanding and reducing the impact of ageism on resident health and wellbeing
- reducing isolation and loneliness and their negative impact on resident health and wellbeing
- addressing racial, ethnic, gender or income disparities in care quality or health outcomes
- enhancing understanding of the specialized care needs of resident populations with developmental disabilities or with serious mental illness

In all programs, 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.

In 2020, the Foundation will invest a total of approximately \$750,000 in this grant program and expects to make four or five awards. Projects may be up to two years in length.

Who May Apply

This program is open to PhD (or equivalent) 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 stakeholders in the policy or delivery arena and propose a rigorous research design. Stakeholder organizations cannot be the applicant organization. Grantees may use this award to augment funding for a project already funded through another grant.

Timeline for Application Process

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

March 25, 2020 Letter of intent deadline

June 24, 2020 Applications due

November 2020 Grant term begins

If you have any questions, you may contact Stacy Cloud, Grants Administrator at (860)521-9011 or cloud@donaghue.org.