

**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.	
<b>April 26, 2021</b>	Letter of intent deadline
<b>July 30, 2021</b>	Invited applications due
<b>January 2022</b>	Grant term begins
In 2021, the Foundation expects to make four awards. The duration of the award is two years.	

**Program Goal**

The goal of this program is to test approaches and tools that organizations can readily use to improve the value of the healthcare they provide to patients and communities. Greater Value Portfolio grant program funds research projects for two years with a maximum amount of \$400,000 per award (plus a 10% indirect) for the purpose of advancing promising approaches to achieve a higher value healthcare system.

**Program Attributes**

The Greater Value Portfolio program places emphasis on research that is closely linked to ongoing improvement initiatives geared to achieving greater value in healthcare organizations. In order 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.

To be considered for funding, research studies must focus on improving value through promising strategies using one or more of these approaches:

- Test models of care, coverage or system change that seek to improve value by addressing one or more of the symptoms of low value
- Reduce treatments, tests, and screenings for patients for whom the potential harms (including financial harm) outweigh potential benefits
- Provide tools to help consumers make decisions about their healthcare based on value, including the cost of care to patients, in addition to other patient-centered factors
- Promote conversations between patients and their clinicians and care teams about preferences and trade-offs related to alternative treatment options and/or out of pocket cost burden to patients and families
- Test interventions geared to increasing equity through the provision of higher value healthcare

**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 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.

## **Program Overview**

The Donaghue Foundation Greater Value Portfolio grant program that will fund research projects for two years with a maximum amount of \$400,000 per award (plus a 10% indirect) for the purpose of advancing promising approaches to achieve a higher value healthcare system. The goal of this program is to test approaches and tools that organizations can readily use to improve the value of the healthcare they provide to patients and communities.

Investigators conducting research 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:

- High and rising healthcare costs
- Unwarranted variation in prices
- Racial and ethnic disparities in access, prices and outcomes
- Unaffordable cost of care burden on patients and families
- Unacceptable variation in quality
- Lack of transparency in both price and outcomes

## **Eligible Topics**

To be considered for funding, research studies must focus on improving value through promising strategies using one or more of these approaches:

- Test models of care, coverage or system change that seek to improve value by addressing one or more of the symptoms of low value
- Reduce treatments, tests, and screenings for patients for whom the potential harms (including financial harm) outweigh potential benefits
- Provide tools to help consumers make decisions about their healthcare based on value, including the cost of care to patients, in addition to other patient-centered factors
- Promote conversations between patients and their clinicians and care teams about preferences and trade-offs related to alternative treatment options and/or out of pocket cost burden to patients and families
- Test interventions geared to increasing equity through the provision of higher value healthcare

## **Eligibility Criteria**

This program is open to PhD (or equivalent) investigators at tax-exempt research institutions in the United States. In order 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.

Applicant organization must be 501(c)3 research institutions. 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 of the application materials for the Greater Value Portfolio grant program can be found 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, 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 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; 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
2. Their proposed research question and methods, including how value will be assessed
3. How this study aligns with improvement initiatives and strategic goals of the healthcare organization that is partnering with the principal investigator on this study
4. Evidence of the principal investigator's and the partnering organization's ability and commitment to work together to implement new knowledge into practice and communicate new findings to audiences beyond scholarly publications

Equal weight will be given to each component in the review process.

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 Stacy Cloud at [cloud@donaghue.org](mailto:cloud@donaghue.org).

### **Funding Commitment and Permitted Use of Funds**

The Foundation intends to fund up to five *Greater Value Portfolio* awards in 2021. 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 unless a clear reason for additional information or a reason for termination develops. 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 secretarial or 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 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 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 April 26, 2021**. Following a review of all letters of intent, we will begin Phase 2 by inviting some applicants to complete a more substantial application.

April 26, 2021                      Letters of intent due

July 30, 2021                      Applications due

January 2022                      Grant term begins

GVP 2021 Grant Announcement



***For additional information, please visit our website [donaghue.org](http://donaghue.org) to see all of the application materials for the Greater Value Portfolio grant program or contact Stacy Cloud at [cloud@donaghue.org](mailto:cloud@donaghue.org).***

### **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 and in supporting initiatives designed to promote the transfer of knowledge for use in practice and policy.