Advancing Implementation Science in Community/Academic Partnered Research

Request for Proposals
Deadline for Proposal Receipt: October 16, 2015

Making Research Relevant and Ready
The AAMC Accelerating Health Equity Advancing through Discovery (AHEAD) initiative seeks to identify, evaluate, and disseminate effective and replicable AAMC-member-institution practices that improve community health and reduce health inequities. This research partnership will support the creation and dissemination of evidence-based strategies to address prioritized community health needs. For more information about AHEAD, please visit www.aamc.org/AHEAD.
Background

New developments in care models, health informatics, population health, and population health management have created opportunities for research to advance scientific knowledge, improve health care, and address inequities in health and health care.

Enhancing activities that facilitate collaboration across multidisciplinary research teams, which also engage community health, clinical, and health system partners, is critical to developing and implementing evidence-based solutions for improving population health.

The goal of this RFP is to stimulate innovative, interdisciplinary research that has the potential for a near-term impact to improve population health outcomes. The research should facilitate collaborations among researchers, community organizations, and health system leaders, including clinicians, hospital executives, and other clinical and interprofessional leaders. In addition, the approach should involve interprofessional training across the education continuum, including undergraduate, graduate, and/or continuing medical education. The research should develop evidence to improve quality, safety, equity, and system effectiveness, and to provide mechanisms for rapid adoption and implementation within the health care system. This collaborative effort between community organizations and academic medical centers should focus on prioritized needs identified through the academic medical center's Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) or other systematic community needs assessment. For the purposes of this RFP, population health is defined as the health outcomes of groups of patients and/or populations potentially served by the health system.

Investigators are asked to select one prioritized health outcome or health inequity for improvement and then design, carry out, and evaluate a related evidence-based intervention. Areas of research may address a wide variety of topics, including treatment of specific conditions, patient groups, and care processes (for example, transitions in care). Selecting the research area should be done collaboratively with clinical and community organization partners and should be seen as a high priority for the health system and the community organization partner. Examples of community organizations for the purposes of this award include community service organizations, community outreach organizations, faith-based organizations, and schools.
Eligibility
To receive this award, the principal investigator (PI) must be a member of the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) Research on Care Community (ROCC) (www.aamc.org/initiatives/rocc). If you are not already a member, submitting the proposal will enroll you in ROCC and the ROCC health equity subgroup. Additionally, at least one institution associated with the investigative team must be a member of the AAMC. Funding will be paid to the AAMC member organization, which will subcontract with the community organization partner.

Award
The Donaghue Foundation has provided funds to the AAMC to support two competitive awards designed to improve quality, safety, equity, and system effectiveness by integrating research into clinical practice and community health. Funding is available to support two awards, each with a maximum budget of $100,000 per year for three years (total of $300,000 per award). No indirect support is provided with this award. Proposals are due October 16, 2015.

Application Submission
Proposals should be no longer than eight single-spaced pages with a minimum 12-point font (excluding cover page, executive summary, CVs, budget information, letters of support, and appendices). Please use PHS 398 forms to complete the application.

Follow this link for application forms: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html#forms.

The proposal should summarize the research topic and demonstrate an understanding of the current knowledge in the area and the topic's importance to the organization and its community. The proposal should describe the relevance and significance of the research to the community organization and clinical or hospital leadership, and detail how policy, health care practice, or community health would be affected by the findings. In particular, the proposal should describe the clinical and operational elements that will endure after the project support is completed. It should fully describe the study design and strategy, study variables, data sources, data collection methods, outcome and process measures, and the partners and their roles. The proposal should emphasize experiences in and processes for working with partners and partner communication. The proposal should contain a letter of support from the dean of the medical school and/or the CEO of the health system as appropriate, and the leader of the community organization. Proposals that target salient local inequities in health or health care are encouraged.
The submission package must include:

- Face page (PHS 398 form, page 1)
- Executive summary (one page maximum, 12-point font)
- Program proposal (maximum eight single-spaced pages, 12-point font)

  **Background/need:**
  - Provide the proposed research topic and a brief description of relevant literature.
  - Describe the relevance and significance of the research to the clinical and community partners, and its relationship to identified community needs.
  - Describe how policy or health care practice might change based on the results of the study. Include a description of relevant baseline measures and expected change.

  **Plan:**
  - Describe the study design and strategy, study variables, data sources, data collection methods, and process and outcome measures.
  - Describe the intervention and highlight innovative approaches.
  - Describe education and training elements that engage the continuum of students and professions.
  - Describe processes for working with partners and partner communication.
  - Describe the sustaining aspects of the activity that will endure after the project is completed.
  - Describe mechanisms in place or to be developed to sustain this effort.

  **Evaluation:**
  - Detail the process and outcome monitoring approaches.
  - Detail specific measurable objectives and expected improvement.
    - Detail the impact of the intervention in terms of patient and community health.
    - Detail learner outcomes.
    - Detail cost savings.

  **Budget:**
  - Use the budget page from federal form PHS 398 (Form, page 4) to outline your budget request, and provide an accompanying budget justification.
  - Provide a separate budget for the community organization with the proposal. That budget should reflect a balanced partnership, with a budget appropriate to the proposed activity.
• Letters of support:
  ▪ Provide letters of support from the dean of the medical school and/or
    the CEO of the health system, as appropriate, and from the leader of the
    community organization.
• Provide a PHS 398 biographical sketch or brief CV, five pages or fewer, of the
  PI and key personnel who will participate in the program.
• Attach the academic medical center’s most recent Community Health Needs
  Assessment or other local systematic community needs assessment.
• Just-in-time process for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval:
  ▪ IRB approval should be obtained after you have received a potential
    funding notice from the AAMC. The certification date of IRB review
    and approval must be submitted before funding is transferred to your
    institution. Pending or out-of-date approvals are not acceptable.

A PDF version of the proposal should be sent as a single file to rocc@aamc.org.
A submission receipt will be sent via email within 24 hours of receipt.

Submission Deadline
The deadline for receipt of the proposal is 8:00 pm ET, October 16, 2015.

Criteria for Selection

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of academic experts in research who will
evaluate projects on the following criteria:
• The feasibility of completing the proposed research within the time frame
  outlined
• The skill, experience, and qualifications of the investigators who are
  conducting the research project
• The level of engagement of the community organization and clinical/
  operational leaders
• Contribution to new knowledge
• Leadership and investigative team qualifications
• Rigor of study design and analytic plan
• Engagement and commitment of partners (the health system and
  the community organization) to the entire research process, including
  implementation of study results and a sustained relationship
• Management plan for the partnership among collaborators
• Value to the community partner and value to the community
Evaluation and Monitoring

The PI shall provide written progress reports every six months to the AAMC that identify activities completed during the time period covered in the report, progress toward the study’s aims, changes in major personnel positions within the study, and significant differences between the budget and actual expenditures. The PI shall visit the AAMC to present and discuss the reports described above every 12 months. The AAMC will furnish travel and accommodations for the PI and one staff member when visiting the AAMC to report these findings.

For successful applicants, the AAMC will offer:

1. Consultation on an as-needed basis by AAMC members and staff experts
2. Travel support for in-person meetings at AAMC headquarters in Washington, D.C., for awardees to share progress and problem-solve together
3. Opportunities to showcase accomplishments and share challenges and lessons learned with a national audience through webinars and various AAMC communication vehicles
4. Opportunity for presentation at Learn Serve Lead: The AAMC Annual Meeting

Funding

Funds will be awarded through a contract between the AAMC and the PI and an appropriate institutional representative. No indirect cost support will be provided. Contracts will contain the following provisions related to intellectual property and attribution:

Intellectual Property

As a charitable trust providing money that may produce discoveries having both public and commercial value, the Donaghue Foundation requires researchers and sponsoring institutions to provide timely and appropriate public dissemination of useful knowledge derived from funded research; disclose to the foundation inventions and discoveries derived from funded research; and notify the foundation of any proposed action having the purpose or effect of securing property rights in or profiting from any product of funded research.
The foundation claims a proportional interest in intellectual property, as defined below, that was derived from the use of its funds but prefers to address specific property issues if and when they arise in specific cases.

“Intellectual property” means, as to any person or entity, all intellectual property and rights therein and any fictional business names, all trademarks, service marks, trade names and other trade rights, trademark and service mark registrations, and applications, patents, patent applications, inventions, and discoveries that may be patentable, copyrights (in both published and unpublished works), copyright registrations and applications, trade secrets, know-how, confidential information, customer lists, software, technical information, data, process technology, plans, drawings, blue prints, and grants of a license by or to such person or entity with respect to any of the foregoing, both domestic and foreign, both registered and not registered, and both owned or claimed by such person or entity or used or proposed to be used by such person or entity in the conduct of its business.

Acceptance of the foundation’s support is an acknowledgment of the foundation’s policy on intellectual property rights and the fact that unless and until otherwise negotiated in specific cases, the foundation claims the rights to a perpetual, fully paid royalty-free, nonexclusive, freely transferable license to make, use, and sell any intellectual property derived from funded research, whether or not patented. Award recipients who propose to transfer any intellectual property rights by license or otherwise must inform a transferee of this claim, which precludes passage of clear title unless and until waived by the foundation.

**Attribution**

In any publication of work done under this study, acknowledgment must be given to “The Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation.” This is because the foundation’s creator, Ethel Donaghue, intended that the work funded by the foundation should serve, in part, as a memorial to her parents, Patrick Donaghue and Catherine Weldon Donaghue. Acknowledgment must also be given to the AAMC.

**Questions**

All inquiries and communications should be addressed to:

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