

## FOUNDATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

**Funder:** [Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation](#)

**Program:** [Greater Value Portfolio Research Grant Awards to Highlight Opportunities to Increase Value in Healthcare](#)

**Purpose:** The goal of the program is to test new approaches and tools that organizations can readily use to improve the value of the health care they provide to their patients and communities. The foundation will support research that develops actionable solutions to the problems of (1) high and rising healthcare costs, (2) unwarranted variation in prices, (3) unaffordable cost of care burden on patients and families, (4) unacceptable variation in quality, and (5) lack of transparency in both price and outcomes. 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.

**Relevance of this RFP to COVID-19 emergency:** The foundation states: “Although we have not changed our focus on value, we believe there are many research questions related to our nation’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic that could fit within this topic.”

**Award:** Up to \$400,000 for 2 years, plus 10% in indirects. The foundation will make only four or five grants

### Deadlines:

- May 11, 2020: one-page letter of intent deadline
- June 8: Notice of LOI decision
- Aug. 3: Applications due
- Nov. 2: Funding decisions made
- Jan. 1, 2021: Grant term begins

**Topics of interest:** Eligible topics include studies that 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 routine 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 or out of pocket cost burden to patients and families
- Offer solutions to problems of, poor quality, low value care that disproportionately impact vulnerable populations such as uninsured individuals and members of minority groups

**Applicant Eligibility:** This program places emphasis on research that is closely linked to ongoing improvement initiatives geared to achieving greater value in healthcare organizations. This program is open to investigators at tax-exempt research institutions in the United States. 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.

**2019, 2018 awardees:**

- Laura F. Garabedian, PhD, MPH, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute, “Impact of an Innovative Payer-Provider Joint Venture on Health Care Value”, Partner Organization: Benevera Health
- Mary E. Tinetti, MD, Yale School of Medicine, “Reducing Unwanted Care and Improving Outcomes by Aligning Care with the Health Priorities of Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Conditions.” Partner Organization: Cleveland Clinic Center for Geriatric Medicine
- Malini Nijagal, MD, MPH and Courtney Lyles, PhD, University of California San Francisco Medical School, “The Use of Telemedicine to Achieve Higher Value Pregnancy Care for Low-income, Urban Women.” Partner Organization: San Francisco Health Network
- Scott E. Regenbogen, MD, MPH, University of Michigan, “Hospital Strategies for Success in Episode-based Hospital Reimbursement.” Partner Organization: Michigan Value Collaborative
- Kai Yeung, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington “Value-based Formulary Essentials: Testing and Expanding on Value in Prescription Drug Benefit Design”
- Brian Dowd, University of Minnesota “Incorporating Quality of Care Information into Tiered Cost-sharing Health Insurance Benefit.”
- Sapna Kudchakar, Johns Hopkins University “Impact of a Multifaceted Early Mobility Intervention on Clinical Outcomes and ICU-acquired Morbidities in Critically-ill Children,
- Nadine Jackson McCleary, Harvard Medical School “Assessing Toxicity and Adherence of Oral Cancer Therapy with ePROs.”

**Internal contacts:** For BU investigators: David Gillerman, Director, Foundation Relations BUMC, [dgillerm@bu.edu](mailto:dgillerm@bu.edu). If you are a BMC investigator and wish to apply for this opportunity, please contact Jennifer Fleming, Director of Foundation Relations and Government Grants at [jennifer.fleming@bmc.org](mailto:jennifer.fleming@bmc.org).