

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI):

Overview and Funding Opportunities

Kisha I. Coa, PhD
Program Officer, Healthcare Delivery
and Disparities Research Program

1.

About PCORI

About Us

- An independent research institute authorized by Congress in 2010 and governed by a 21-member Board of Governors representing the entire healthcare community
- Funds comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) that engages patients and other stakeholders throughout the research process
- Seeks answers to real-world questions about what works best for patients based on their circumstances and concerns






Our Mission and Strategic Goals



PCORI helps people make informed healthcare decisions, and improves healthcare delivery and outcomes, by producing and promoting high-integrity, evidence-based information that comes from **research guided by patients, caregivers, and the broader healthcare community.**

Our Strategic Goals:

-  Increase quantity, quality, and timeliness of useful, trustworthy research information available to support health decisions
-  Speed the implementation and use of patient-centered outcomes research evidence
-  Influence research funded by others to be more patient-centered

Who Are Our Stakeholders?



2.

Our Research Focus

We Fund Comparative Clinical Effectiveness Research (CER)



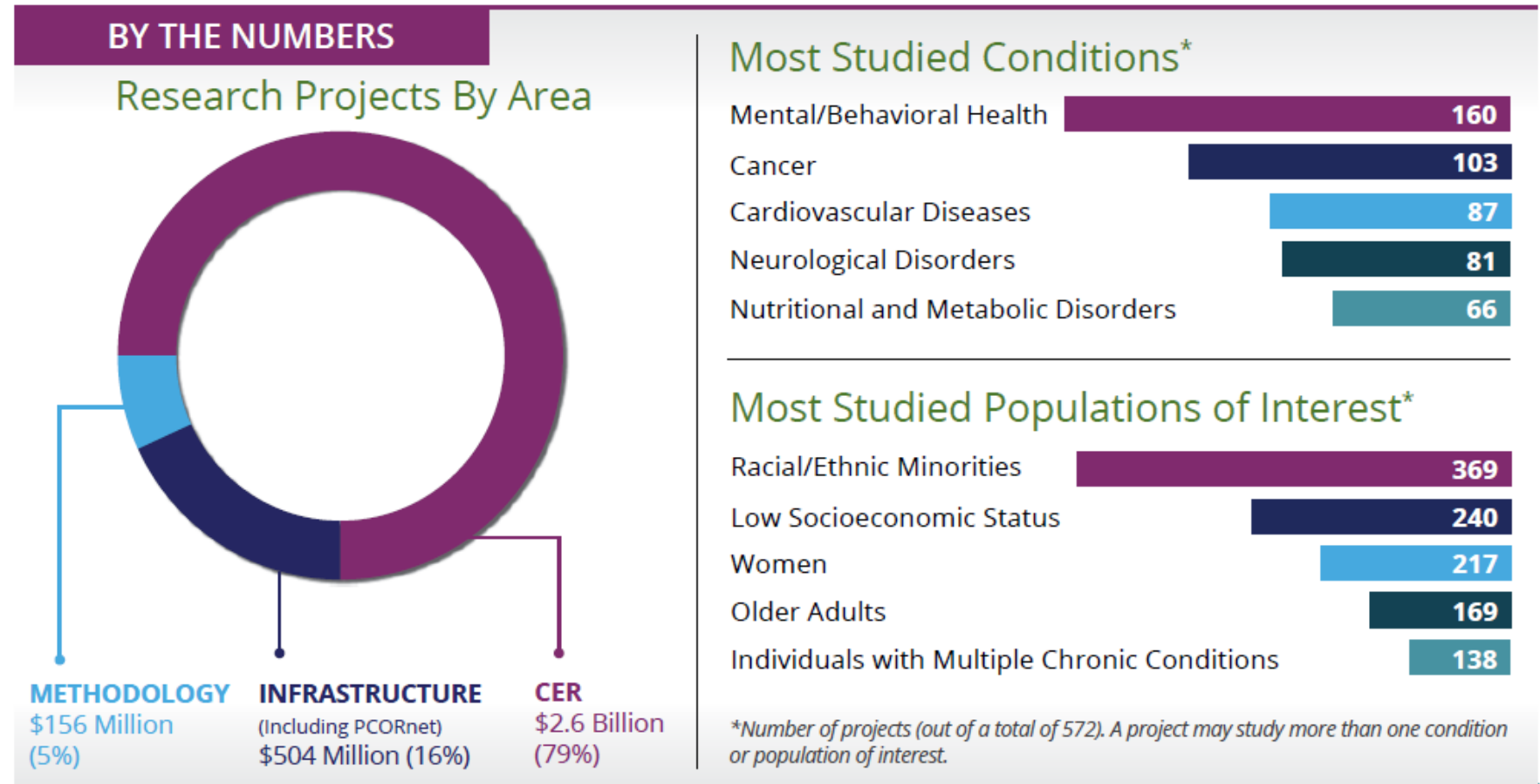
- Generates and synthesizes evidence comparing benefits and harms of at least two different methods to prevent, diagnose, treat, and monitor a clinical condition or improve care delivery
- Measures benefits in real-world populations
- Describes results in subgroups of people
- Helps consumers, clinicians, purchasers, and policy makers make informed decisions that will improve care for individuals and populations
- Informs a specific clinical or policy decision

Note: We do not fund cost-effectiveness research

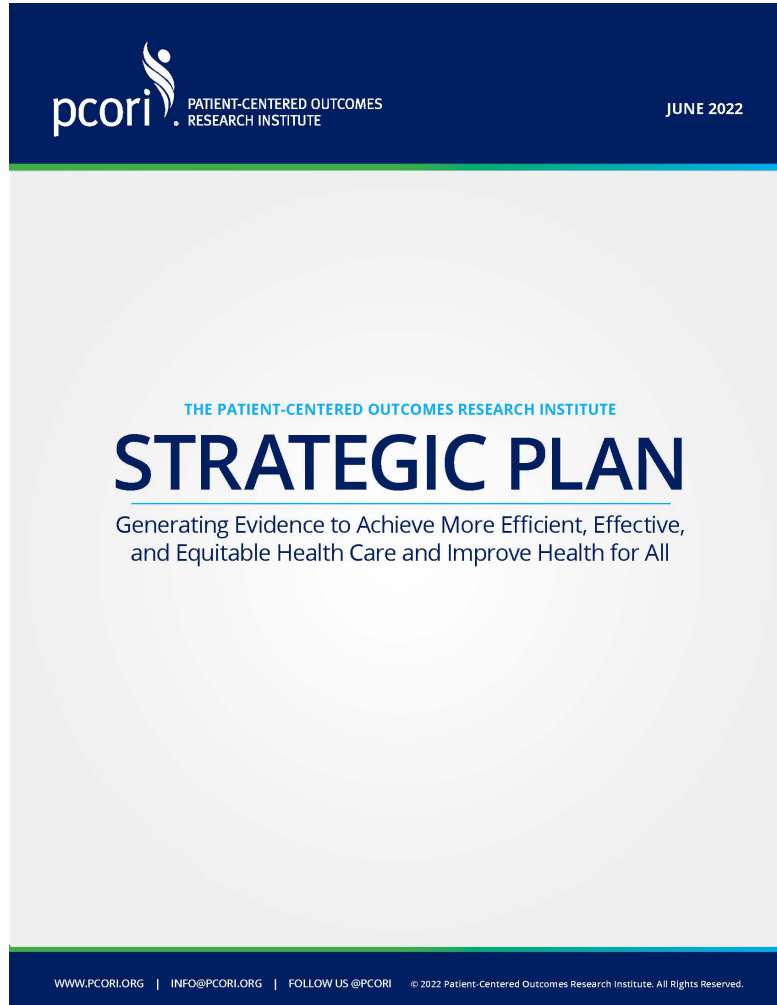
Adapted from *Initial National Priorities for Comparative Effectiveness Research*, Institute of Medicine of the National Academies

Funded Research Portfolio

AS OF MARCH 2022,
PCORI HAS COMMITTED
MORE THAN
\$3.4 BILLION
TO FUND MORE THAN
1,900
RESEARCH & RELATED
PROJECTS



PCORI Strategic Plan



PCORI's Strategic Plan

- A bold vision and an aspirational roadmap for how PCORI will continue to pursue its mission
- Centered on five long-term, reinforcing goals — the National Priorities for Health — which will guide all our work
- Expanded focus on health equity
- Responsive to the overall health landscape

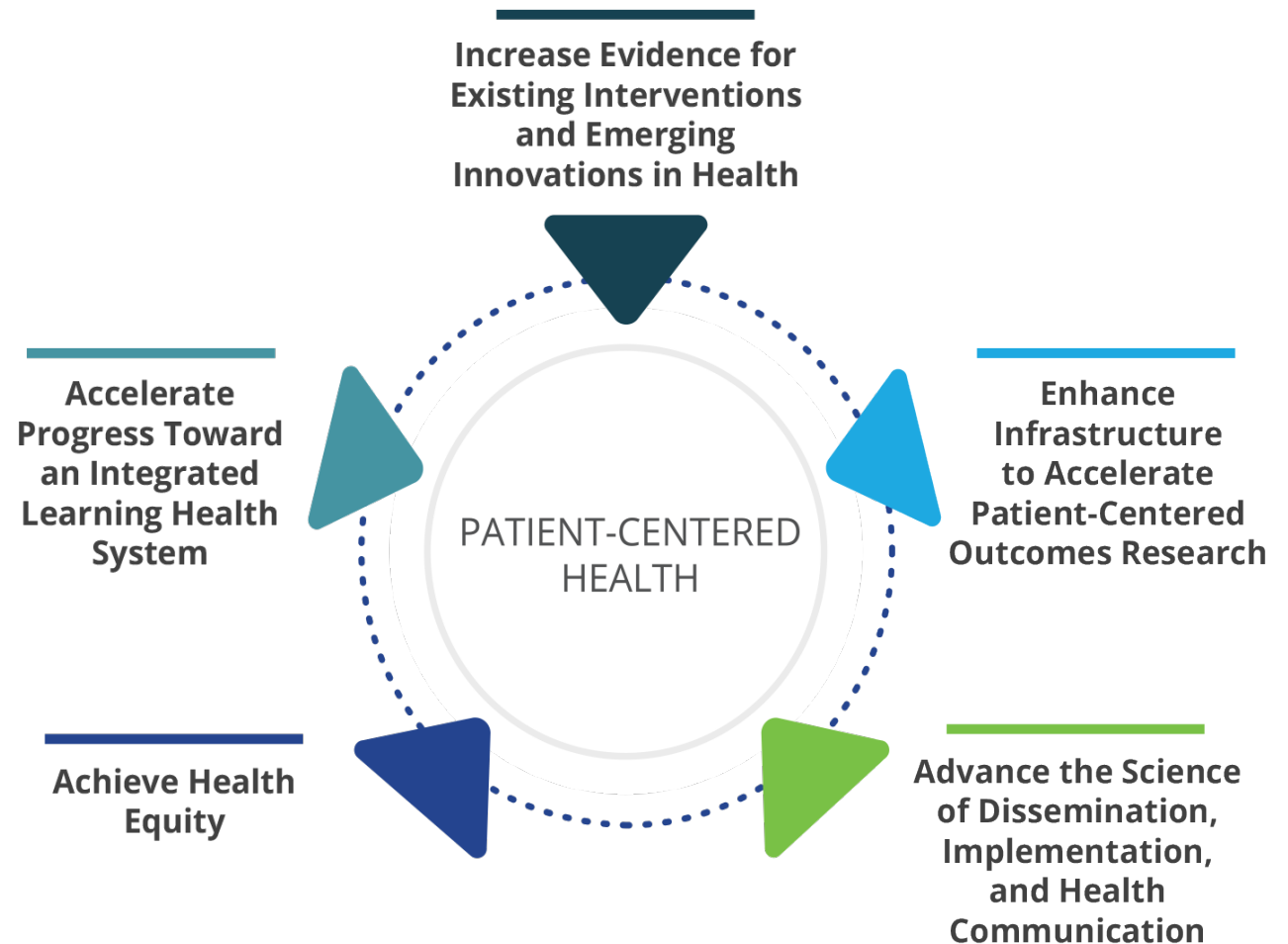
Visit: <https://www.pcori.org/pcori-strategic-plan>

PCORI Strategic Plan



National Priorities for Health

- Five ambitious long-term goals
- Interconnected and mutually reinforcing
- Focus:
 - Anchor PCORI's research funding and other initiatives
 - Make a positive and significant impact on health and healthcare outcomes



Holistic Approach

- Reflects a holistic approach to generating and promoting the use of evidence designed to enable a more patient-centered system of health
 - CER Funding
 - Engagement
 - Dissemination & Implementation
 - Infrastructure
- Working in concert with one another, these components drive and facilitate our mission and enable us to be responsive



Research Agenda

- Six statements describing complementary, broad areas of research
- Framework for advancing the National Priorities for Health
- Inform and guide the development of a portfolio of patient-centered CER projects

Fund Comparative Clinical Effectiveness Research That...

- ▶ Fills patient- and stakeholder-prioritized evidence gaps and is representative and inclusive of diverse and underrepresented patient populations and settings
- ▶ Advances the achievement of health equity and elimination of disparities with an emphasis on overcoming the effects on health and healthcare outcomes of racism, discrimination, and bias
- ▶ Builds the evidence base for emerging interventions by leveraging the full range of data resources and partnerships
- ▶ Examines the diverse burdens and clinical and economic impacts important to patients and other stakeholders
- ▶ Focuses on health promotion and illness prevention by addressing health drivers that occur where people live, work, learn, and play
- ▶ Integrates implementation science and advances approaches for communicating evidence so the public can access, understand, and act on research findings

5.

Information for Applicants

Who Can Apply?



Any private-sector research organization, including:

- Non-profit or for-profit organization
- Laboratory or manufacturer/industry

Any public sector research organization, including:

- University or college (including affiliated clinician group)
- Hospital or healthcare system (including affiliated clinician group)
- Units of state, local, or federal government

Foreign organizations and nondomestic components of US organizations,
if there is a clear benefit to the US healthcare system and patient-centered research efforts

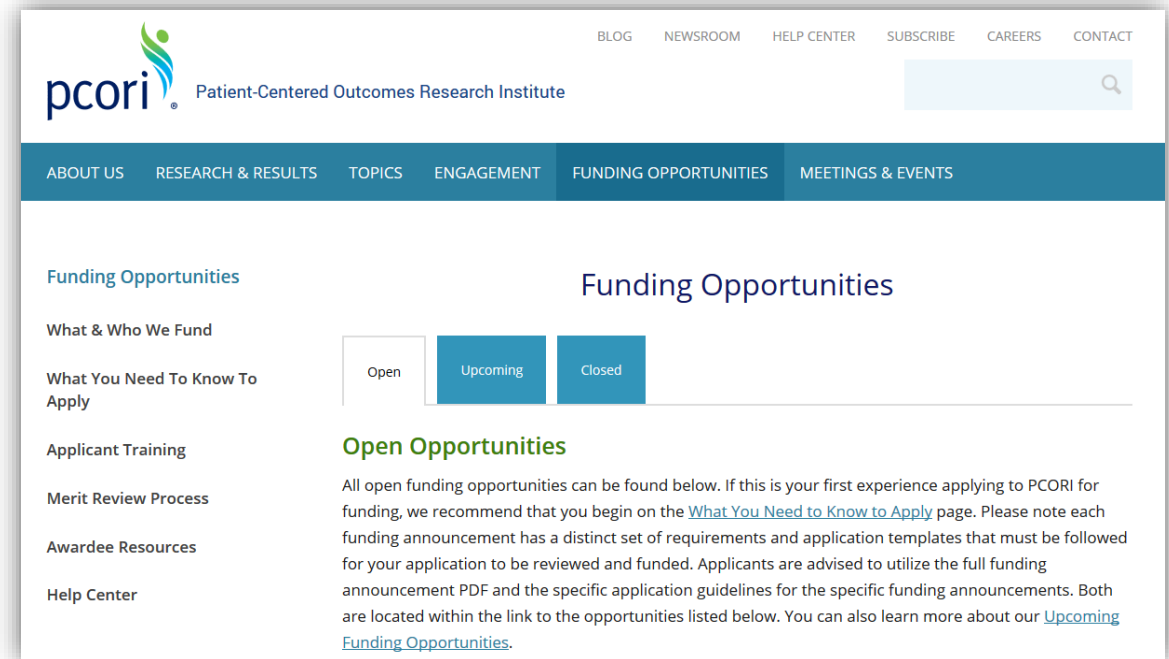
Note: Individuals may not apply

PCORI Funding Opportunities



Our research funding is awarded through PCORI Funding Announcements.

Open opportunities are posted at pcori.org/apply.



2023 Cycle 1 PFAs Released on 1/10/2023



- Broad pragmatic studies in all areas
 - (NEW: proposed studies to align with at least one of PCORI's National Priorities for Health)
- Adolescent alcohol use
- Delirium in older adults
- Improving maternal outcomes by addressing health conditions and social determinants of health
- Improving methods for conducting patient-centered CER
- Science of engagement

Broad Pragmatic Studies Funding Announcement -- 2023 Standing PFA

RESEARCH Cycle 1 2023

This PCORI Funding Announcement (PFA) invites applications for high-quality comparative clinical effectiveness research projects. The Broad Pragmatic Studies (BPS) PFA 2023 funding cycle year will retain familiar requirements from the 2022 standing BPS PFA with updates to reflect [PCORI's National Priorities for Health](#).

The BPS PFA was first issued in January 2022 and combined two longstanding funding opportunities known as the Broad PFA and Pragmatic Clinical Studies PFA. For the 2023 opportunities, PCORI's National Priorities for Health and Board of Governors-approved topic themes have been incorporated.

All applications must align the proposed research with at least one of the four National

Key Dates

- **Online System Opened:**
January 10, 2023
- **Applicant Town Hall:**
[January 13, 2023; 11:30 am ET](#)
- **Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline:**
February 7, 2023; 5 pm ET
- **LOI Status Notification:**
March 7, 2023
- **Application Deadline:**
May 2, 2023; 5 pm ET

[Apply Here](#)

6.

How We Review Research Proposals

Our Merit Review Process

- 1 Evaluate Letters of Intent.** At least two PCORI staff review each Letter of Intent and a committee of staff members determines which will be invited to submit full applications. Information in the Letters of Intent drives the recruitment of patients, clinicians, scientists, and other members of the healthcare community who have the appropriate expertise to serve on merit review panels.
- 2 Preliminary review of full applications.** Reviewers conduct a preliminary review of applications, providing written critiques and scores for the applications based on our review criteria and scoring system.



Our Merit Review Process



3 In-person panel review. Following the preliminary review, a subset of applications move forward and are discussed and scored by the full panel of merit reviewers at an in-person meeting. The perspectives of a wide range of reviewers help us choose projects that are important, practical, and relevant to the audiences who will use the results of our work.

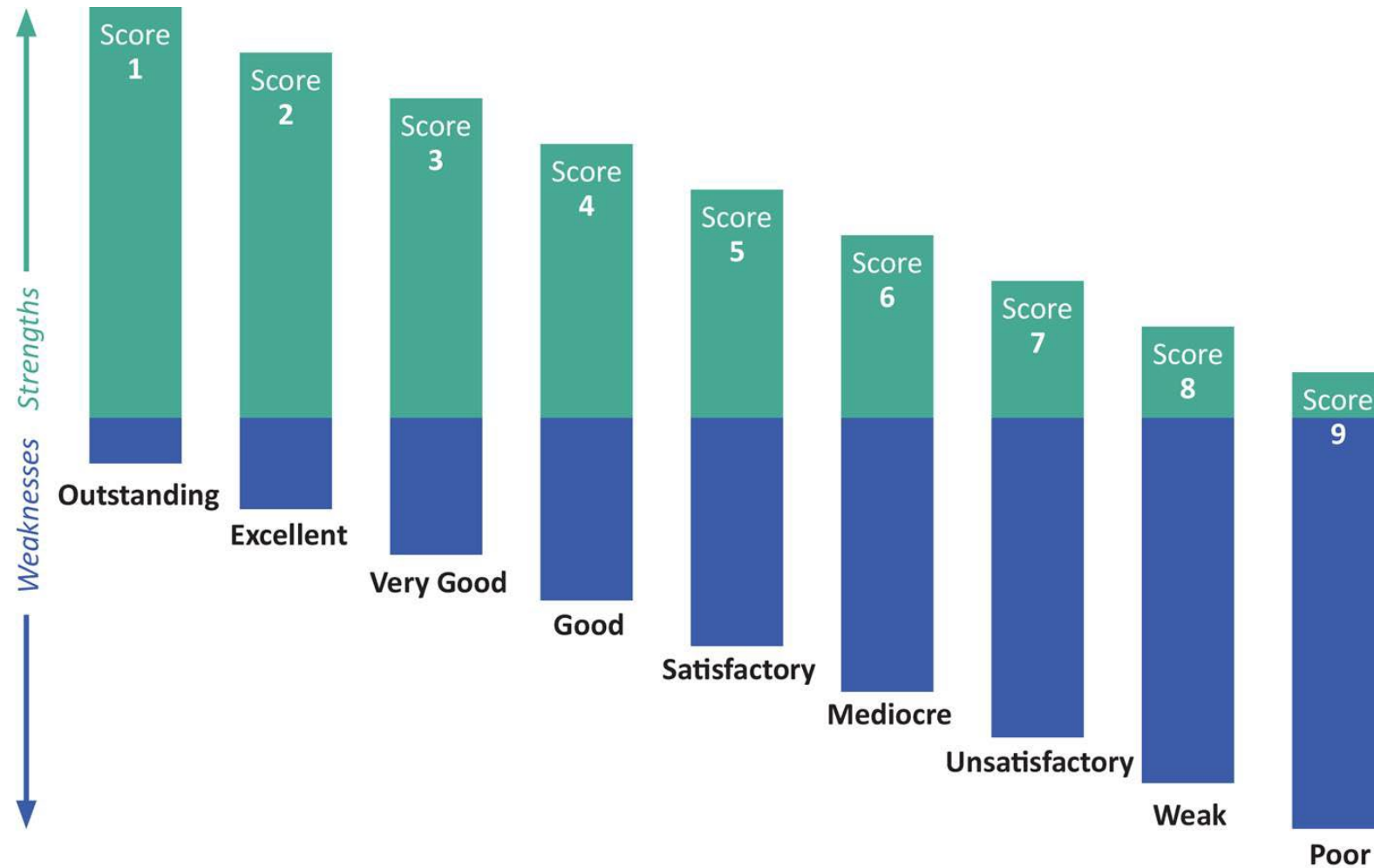
4 Selection Committee Review. Program staff recommend projects to a Selection Committee that includes members of PCORI's Board of Governors. The committee identifies a slate of applications for possible funding based on merit review scores, programmatic balance and fit, and PCORI's strategic priorities.

This slate is proposed to PCORI's Executive Director for consideration and approval.

Our Merit Review Process

	Patient/Other Stakeholder Reviewers	Scientist Reviewers
Criterion 1: Potential for the study to fill critical gaps in evidence		✓
Criterion 2: Potential for the study findings to be adopted into clinical practice and improve delivery of care	✓	✓
Criterion 3: Scientific merit (research design, analysis, and outcomes)		✓
Criterion 4: Investigator(s) and environment		✓
Criterion 5: Patient-centeredness	✓	✓
Criterion 6: Patient and stakeholder engagement	✓	✓

Scoring Range



What Is Expected of a PCORI Reviewer?



All Reviewers

- Understand and apply PCORI's mission, vision, and review criteria
- Bring experience and perspective that enhances the quality of the review
- Dedicate time and agree to review all assigned applications and participate in a one- or two-day in-person panel meeting

Patient and Other Stakeholder Reviewers

- Ability to represent perspective of broad or specific patient and other stakeholder groups
- Ability to contribute a unique healthcare system perspective

Scientist Reviewers and Chairs

- Advanced degree in a health- or research-related field
- Publication of relevant peer-reviewed articles/studies
- Current or recent funding in a relevant field of study

Engagement Award Funding Opportunities



**Up to
\$250,000
2 years**

Engagement Award: Dissemination Initiative

Objective: Support communities and organizations to actively disseminate PCORI-funded research findings and/or develop partnerships and infrastructure to disseminate and implement PCORI-funded research findings

**Up to
\$100,000
1 year**

Engagement Award: Stakeholder Convening Support

Objective: Convene stakeholders to explore critical issues related to PCOR/CER and/or communicate PCORI-funded research findings to targeted end-users

**Up to
\$250,000
2 years**

Engagement Award: Capacity Building

Objective: Prepare patients and stakeholders to participate as partners in PCOR/CER

PCORI D&I Program Funding Initiatives



Goal: To facilitate the uptake and integration of evidence from PCORI-funded studies into real-world practice, in the context of other relevant evidence

- **Limited Competition: Implementation of PCORI-Funded PCOR Results PFA**
 - Provides PCORI investigator teams the opportunity to propose next steps to put their findings into practice (up to \$1.5M in total direct costs for Standard Implementation Projects, up to \$3M in total direct costs for Phased Implementation Projects, up to \$300,000 in total costs for Dissemination Projects)
- **Implementation of Effective Shared Decision Making Approaches in Practice Settings PFA**
 - Promotes the implementation and systematic uptake of shared decision making in practice settings (up to \$1.5M in total direct costs per project)
- **Implementation of Findings from PCORI's Major Research Investments PFA**
 - Provides a broad applicant pool the opportunity to promote the uptake of peer-reviewed findings from specific, high-priority PCORI initiatives into practice, in the context of related evidence (up to \$2.5M in total costs per project)

Ongoing Opportunities to Engage with PCORI

- **Ambassador Program**

- Members are part of a diverse volunteer community of PCOR supporters working to shift the culture of health research to be patient-centered. Anyone may participate by filling out an interest form and completing a short online training.

<https://www.pcori.org/engagement/engage-us/pcori-ambassador-program>

- **Advisory Panels**

- Members are representatives from across the healthcare community who help advance PCORI's strategic aims. Membership is based on PCORI review of applications. Advisory panelists are not required to have had prior PCORI funding. Our next application cycle is open now through March 31, 2023. <https://www.pcori.org/engagement/engage-us/pcoris-advisory-panels>

- **Merit Reviewer Program**

- Professional and lay audiences may serve as reviewers of research applications submitted in response to our Funding Announcements. Please go to our website to sign-up and learn more about how patients and other stakeholders help evaluate our funding applications. <https://www.pcori.org/engagement/engage-us/become-merit-reviewer>

- **Funding Opportunities**


- PCORI regularly updates upcoming and current funding opportunities intended to answer stakeholder-driven research questions about health and health care. Funding opportunities are also available to support stakeholder capacity to engage in research and dissemination of research results. All announcements are posted on our website. <https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities>

- **Stakeholder Convenings and Events**

- PCORI regularly hosts opportunities for stakeholders to come together to learn about PCORI's work, engage in dialogue about PCOR, and/or participate in peer learning and networking. <https://www.pcori.org/events/>

Contact Information

Kisha Coa, Program Officer

 202.774.0802

 kcoa@pcori.org

 www.pcori.org

 @pcori

 /PCORInstitute

 PCORI

 /pcori