PCORI: Request for Proposals: Engagement Award Special Cycle: Building Capacity for PCOR/CER for Topics Related to COVID-19
Unrestricted funding opportunities

Coordinator:	Nicole Dancz, Foundation Relations (nicole.dancz@emory.edu)
Website:	https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/engagement-award-special-cycle-building-capacity-PCOR-CER-COVID19-2021
Submission Limitations:	None
Foundation Deadline:	Full proposals are due **May 24, 2021, 5:00 p.m. EST**

*Please contact your RAS unit ***and*** Nicole Dancz to inform them of your intent to submit.*

Overview

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) plans to award up to $25 million in fiscal year 2021 as part of the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards. These awards are for research support projects. This program does not fund research studies. The Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards support projects that encourage active, meaningful involvement of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders as integral members of the patient-centered outcomes research/comparative clinical effectiveness research (PCOR/CER) enterprise.

This special funding opportunity will support projects that enable organizations and communities to build their capacity and skills to participate across all phases of the PCOR/CER process on topics that address health outcomes related to COVID-19. Projects will also provide an understanding of the impact of stakeholder engagement strategies within different settings and stakeholder groups focused on this special area of interest.

This is an opportunity to explore and address the urgent and unique needs to build capacity for stakeholder engagement in PCOR/CER specifically related to:
- Long-term effects of post-acute COVID-19;
- Impact of COVID-19 on disproportionately affected populations;
- Impact of COVID-19 on social isolation and loneliness (mental health and well-being); and
- Engaging, educating, and promoting informed decision making around COVID-19 vaccines.
- Other relevant topics related to COVID-19 health outcomes with appropriate justification will also be considered.

Funding
- Award total costs may not exceed $200,000 (Direct + Indirect Costs).
- Maximum project period is 18 months
- The length of the project period and budget amount must be justified by the level of activity that will occur during the project and all projects must be at least 12 months in duration.

More Information
Types of projects under this funding announcement may include, but are not limited to:
- Projects that capture and communicate emerging research needs identified by stakeholders, with emphasis on the PCOR/CER needs of patients, frontline workers, and other communities facing the COVID-19 pandemic, including, but not limited to, clinicians, policy makers, hospitals, and health systems.
- Projects that engage communities to identify barriers and facilitators related to making informed decisions and/or increasing awareness and education around the COVID-19 vaccines.
- Projects that identify important patient-centered outcomes of those experiencing long-term effects of post-acute COVID-19.
- Projects that engage stakeholders and build capacity to participate in PCOR/CER related to telehealth or other technology-enhanced interventions and strategies.
- Projects that engage stakeholders around social emotional health and well-being to prioritize PCOR/CER topics during the COVID-19 pandemic including social isolation and loneliness.

- We expect that projects selected for an Engagement Award will further PCORI's goals of promoting the relevance of research to target audiences and the uptake of research results by end users. We are committed to using and sharing successful approaches.
- The information and learnings generated by Engagement Award projects must be generalizable; they must be of interest or use not just to the applicant organizations but to others doing related work. The learnings and information will be made public so they can have a broader impact.

Successful applications will include:
- Rationale that there is a need for additional patient and/or stakeholder capacity to participate in COVID-19-related PCOR/CER with a clear and direct link to participation in research opportunities.
- Applicants are encouraged to provide actionable findings as early in the project period as is feasible in the form of a submitted deliverable.
- The intended impact of the proposed project.
- The organization's relationship to the population and/or context and track record in engagement.
- Commitment from the patient and/or stakeholder communities to be involved in the project and clear patient and/or stakeholder involvement/leadership in all stages of the proposed work.
- Evaluation metrics for assessing the success of engagement strategies.
- Plans for sustainability/next steps after the project period has ended. Future funding from PCORI should not be assumed. If the project does not lend itself to sustained activities after the project period concludes, provide justification.
- If using or adopting a PCORI-funded engagement tool or resource:
  o Description of the engagement tool(s) or resource(s) selected and justification for its continued and expanded use. Provide information about prior use/implementation of the tool(s) or resource(s), including any data on its effectiveness to build capacity for patient and stakeholder engagement in PCOR/CER.
  o Approval to use and, if applicable, adapt tool(s) and resource(s) from the relevant copyright owner of the tool(s) and/or resource(s) in the form of a written letter of support with the full proposal submission. This will typically be from the awardee institution of the original PCORI award. The relevant owner must grant the applicant rights to the engagement tool(s)/resource(s) sufficient to carry out the project.

Review Process
- Applying for this award is a one-stage process unlike applying for other Engagement Awards. A full proposal is required at the time of submission. An LOI is not required. Specific requirements and guidance to complete a successful application are found in the full funding announcement, submission instructions, and submission checklist.
- Proposals must be submitted by the application deadline of May 24, 2021 at 5 pm ET. PCORI may request additional information from the applicant after the initial review of the full proposal. PCORI aims to provide a final programmatic approval decision on the full proposal, via email, within 10 weeks of the application deadline. If the full proposal is programmatically approved, a PCORI staff member will coordinate arrangements to begin budgetary review and contracting negotiations.
- To select high-quality patient-centered projects, PCORI's Engagement and Contract Management and Administration teams and internal and external subject matter experts (as necessary) will review all applications.

Review Criteria
1. Program Fit
2. Project Plan and Timeline
3. Qualifications of the Project Lead, Personnel, and Organizational Capabilities
4. Patient and Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Collaborators
5. Past Performance
6. Budget/Cost Proposal