Program Requirements for Pipeline to Proposal Tier II Awards

Tier II awards are only available to Tier I awardees who have successfully completed Tier I. The funding limit for Tier II Awards is up to $25,000 and the timeline is up to 12 months. At the completion of Tier II, awardees are invited to apply for the competitive Tier III awards to use their CER questions to create a research proposal, including a robust engagement plan for later submission to PCORI or other funders of PCOR.

The performance for this cycle of Tier II awards will be from the date of award through March 31, 2016.

Location of Activities

It is anticipated that that Tier II Pipeline Award activities will take in the Western Region of the United States.

Western Region of the United States*

* Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Administration U.S. Census Bureau

Scope of Work

Tier II: Partnership and Infrastructure Development Projects (up to $25,000 per award)

In Tier II Pipeline Awards, PCORI is focused on the maturation of research partnerships with the goal of receiving PCORI or other CER project funding. The funds are to be used to strengthen the partnerships and further develop the infrastructure and governance structures laid out during Tier I and to lay groundwork for the ultimate drafting of a patient-centered CER proposal.

Tier II awards can only be given to Tier I awardees who have successfully completed their Tier I deliverables.

During the twelve-month process, expected Tier II activities include:

- Participation in PCORI trainings
- Development of a communication plan for project and research outcomes

- A plan to connect with state or national stakeholder organizations or a justification for why this is not appropriate for your partnership and CER work.
- Finalization of a governance structure developed in Tier I
- Quarterly reports
- List of possible Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) questions with explanation of how community was engaged in the development of the questions
- Final CER question determined and communicated to PAPO
- Final report or Outline for a Tier III application

Successful Tier II awardees will:

- Complete PCORI Tier II Pipeline Awardee Training
- Work closely with the Western PAPO and PCORI to abide by the rules of the award, including regular communication with the assigned PAPO and active communication to share experiences and lessons learned with other Tier II Pipeline awardees
- Provide quarterly reports giving details on the activities that have taken place during the contract period

Key Deliverables

The awardee will provide the following deliverables within the timeframe noted below.

Deliverable	Timing
Participation in PCORI trainings	Within 6 weeks of project start date
Develop communication plan for project and research outcomes	Progress October 31, 2015; Completed March 31, 2016; Reported April 30, 2016
A plan to connect with state or national stakeholder organizations or a justification for why this is not appropriate for your partnership and CER work.	Progress October 31, 2015; Completed March 31, 2016; Reported April 30, 2016
Finalize Governance structure developed in Tier I	Completed March 31, 2016 Reported April 30, 2016
Quarterly reports	July 15, 2015; January 15, 2016
Mid project report	October 31, 2015
List of possible Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) questions with explanation of how community was engaged in the development of the questions	January 15, 2016
Final report or a workplan for a Tier III application	April 30, 2016
Final CER question determined and communicated to PAPO	April 30, 2016

PCORI Funding Restrictions

Keep in mind that, although PCORI typically funds research projects, the Pipeline Awards will not be used to fund research. Instead, these awards will fund the development of a research project. Because the goal of these awards is eventually to develop a patient-centered research proposal that can be submitted to PCORI for research funding, it is important that the issue or question you would like to study falls within the definition of what PCORI funds.

- Tier II funds are available to already funded Tier I awardees within the Pipeline to Proposal Program with a satisfactory evaluation of Tier I activities and successful submission of Tier II Deliverable Documents (described in Deliverables above).
- PCORI funds clinical comparative effectiveness research (CER). This means that we fund studies comparing one thing to another, the effectiveness of Drug A compared to the effectiveness of Drug B, for example.
- PCORI does not fund cost-effectiveness studies. So if the issue that you care most about is whether it is more cost effective to use treatment A or treatment B, PCORI's funding is not for you.
- PCORI does not fund so-called descriptive studies such as a study that counts the number of people affected by asthma. Instead, we are interested in comparing solutions to the many problems that have already been identified by health researchers.
- All PCORI funding is given as cost reimbursable contracts with the corresponding Pipeline Award Program Office (see description below). Arrangements for a fiscal agent can be made in situations where cost reimbursement is not possible.
- PCORI is funded through the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund (PCORTF), which was authorized by Congress as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. Given the congressional oversight these funds are under, costs will only be reimbursed when they are adequately documented.
- The salary cap for PCORI funding is $200,000.
- Indirect costs for these projects are capped at 10%.

Pipeline Award Program Offices

Because PCORI has a limited headquarters workforce, the operational, programmatic, and fiscal duties associated with Pipeline Awards will be subcontracted to regional Pipeline Award Program Offices (PAPOs) throughout the United States. These PAPOs have significant research capacity building and award management experience (e.g., grant and contract award administration). The PAPOs are contracted to manage the tracking of project progress both financially and programmatically. Awardees will be required to contract with their assigned PAPO to receive their awarded funding.