

Description of Tier I Pipeline Award Activities and Deliverables

The PCORI Pipeline to Proposal Awards aim to build a national community of patients, stakeholders, and researchers who have the expertise and passion to participate in patient-centered outcomes research, or PCOR, and to create partnerships within that community that lead to high-quality research proposals.

The initiative's goals include:

- Strengthening relationships between researchers, patients, and stakeholders, particularly in communities that have historically been underrepresented in research
- Building the capacity for community partnerships to create research questions and submit patient-centered research proposals that can be considered for PCORI funding
- Increasing the number of patients, researchers, and other stakeholders who have the ability to participate in PCOR
- Identifying the most promising methods for engaging and communicating with patients, researchers, and other stakeholders in PCOR and conveying those lessons to current and future PCORI awardees

Through this funding program, patients, other stakeholders, and researchers will be able to build capacity, form important relationships, and eventually develop a patient-centered research proposal to study an issue that is important to them.

Tier I awards are available to individuals, consumer/patient organizations, clinician(s), researcher(s), or a combination of the above. Because we anticipate that most Tier I awardees will be individuals or newly formed groups of people who aren't organized as a nonprofit or a corporation, the Pipeline Award Program Offices can also serve as fiscal agents—the distributors and managers of funding—to Tier I awardees. The performance for this cycle of Tier I awards will be from May 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016.

Location of Activities

Aside from travel for meetings or other related events, it is expected that Tier I Pipeline Award activities will take place in the assigned region of the United States where the awardee is located.

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.

Scope of Work

Tier I – Pre-Engagement/Community Projects (up to \$15,000 per award)

Purpose of Funding – Building of the community and capacity around a topic of interest to patients, researchers or other stakeholders is necessary to later develop a patient-centered comparative effectiveness research (CER) project addressing the issue of interest to the awardee.

During the nine-month process, expected Tier I activities include:

- Participation in PCORI trainings and PAPO technical assistance meetings
- Completion of monthly reports
- The creation of a thorough governance document that describes how all partners work collectively to support patient-engaged CER projects in their community and have equal contribution in decision making and strategic planning
- Development of a list of focused CER ideas developed by all partners that will drive Tier II work in developing a solid CER question (<http://www.pcori.org/content/patient-centered-comparative-effectiveness-research>)
- List of effective recruitment strategies used to develop the partnership and description of how those strategies can be translated into dissemination strategies (i.e. draft of outreach strategies for eventual communications plan)

Examples of the types of activities that are not fundable through the Pipeline to Proposal Awards are:

- Implementation or measurement of care delivery interventions
- Pilot projects
- Product or app development or improvement
- Recruitment for clinical trials
- Raising awareness for a given disease or health issue
- Standalone conferences or training activities that are not related to a broader effort to form a partnership and later build a PCOR proposal

Successful Tier I awardees will:

- Complete PCORI Tier I Pipeline Awardee Training
- Work closely with assigned 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 monthly 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
Monthly reports	Monthly following first award month
Governance document	Progress completed January 31, 2016 Reported February 29, 2016
List of focused CER ideas	Progress completed January 31, 2016 Reported February 29, 2016
List of effective recruitment strategies	Progress completed January 31, 2016 Reported February 29, 2016
Final report for Tier I including a workplan for a Tier II application	February 29, 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.

- 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.
- PCORI does not fund efficacy studies such as a study that asks "Does this work?" rather than "Which of these options works better?"
- PCORI does not fund studies that look at social determinants of health.
- PCORI does not fund the development of clinical practice guidelines.
- 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% of the total direct cost.