

Program Requirements for Pipeline to Proposal Tier III Cycle 1 Awards

Tier III awards are competitive. The funding limit for Tier III Awards is up to \$50,000 and the timeline is up to 12 months. Within the project period for Tier III, awardees will 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 period of performance for this cycle of Tier III awards will be from the date of award through June 30, 2017.

Location of Activities

It is anticipated that that Tier III 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 III: Proposal Development Projects for a 12-Month Term (up to \$50,000 per award)

Tier III awards support the development of a health-related CER research question into a patient-centered research proposal. This funding is designed to advance research partnerships (those that are “almost there”) that could benefit from working with new partners to draft a strong patient engagement plan and a rigorous science proposal.

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

- Participation in PCORI trainings
- Engage their partnership team to include researchers, patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders in the development of comparative effectiveness research (CER) questions.

- Submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to a broad PCORI Funding Announcement for either Cycle 3 2016 or Cycle 1 2017. The LOI will be for a patient-centered CER proposal that addresses a health issue with and within their community. Awardees should submit their CER ideas and questions to the PCORI Science Team for feedback prior to submitting an LOI.
- Quarterly reports
- Submit a patient-centered CER LOI that will address the chosen health issue with and within their community to PCORI.

Successful Tier III awardees will:

- Complete PCORI Tier III Pipeline Awardee Training and PAPO Technical Assistance
- 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 III Pipeline awardees
- Provide quarterly, mid-point and final 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. Please note dates may change, check with PAPO to stay apprised of revised dates.

Deliverable	Timing
Participation in PCORI trainings	Within 6 weeks of training release date
Quarterly reports	October 31, 2016; February 28, 2017
Letter of Intent submitted to PCORI for either Cycle 3 2016 or Cycle 1 2017	2016 Cycle 3 - September 14, 2016 2017 Cycle 1 - Date not yet public
Report or presentation to community about CER question and future proposals	January 31, 2017
Mid project report	January 31, 2017
List of funders and proposal opportunities appropriate for your CER question	January 31, 2017
Proposal submission status determined and communicated to PAPO	July 31, 2017
Final report	July 31, 2017

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 III awards are competitive. The funding limit for Tier III Awards is up to \$50,000, including direct and indirect costs.
- 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% of the total direct costs.

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.