

Emergent Issues in Public Health Grant Cycle 3

Request for Proposals

About the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment

Created in 2015, the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE) Fund enables Washington State to match up to \$10 million annually to fund cancer research initiatives. The CARE Fund is built on a public-private partnership model and incentivizes additional investment by matching private or other non-state resources with state funds. With the establishment of the CARE Fund, the state is making a commitment to enrich the cancer research ecosystem with sustained investment to promote cancer research, aimed at improving the quality of life of the people of Washington.

Emergent Issues in Public Health Grant Overview

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the particular impacts for cancer patients and survivors, the CARE Fund launched the COVID-19 Response grant opportunity to support research that focused on the impact of COVID-19 on outcomes, research, risks, or well-being for cancer patients. While the impact and presence of COVID-19 remains, other important public health issues continue to be present, and new ones may emerge.

Formerly the COVID-19 Response Grant, this revised grant opportunity will support research that aims to address an emergent issue regarding cancer and public health, which may include the next phase of COVID-19 and cancer research, or other cancer research related to an emergent public health issue. Emergent issues related to cancer may arise from the categories listed below or may arise from other categories identified by the applicant.

- Impact of climate change on cancer risk
- Environmental exposures and cancer risk
- Social determinants of health and cancer risk and survivorship
- Comorbidities and the impact on cancer risk and survivorship
- Disparities in clinical trial participation and related impacts on cancer disparities
- Disparities in access to cancer screening and related impacts on cancer disparities
- Physical and mental health among cancer survivors
- Pediatric cancer survivorship
- Pain management among cancer survivors
- Physical and mental health among informal caregivers in cancer care
- Financial hardship or toxicity impact among cancer patients, survivors, or informal caregivers in cancer care

- Public health workforce capacity to identify or address emergent public health issues related to cancer

The above list is not exhaustive, and the CARE Fund has not pre-determined what is considered an emergent public health issue, rather the applicant is asked to identify and provide evidence of the emergent public health issue to be studied.

The Emergent Issues in Public Health grant will provide up to \$250,000 per award to organizations (e.g., companies, universities, research institutions, etc.), local health jurisdictions, and tribal governments, tribal entities, and Urban Indian Organizations in Washington State to support cancer research projects that aim to address an important public health issue.

Timeline

Call for Proposals Announced (estimated)	May 5, 2022
Letter of Intent Deadline	June 2, 2022
Full Application Deadline	July 12, 2022
Award Decision	November 2, 2022

Eligibility

- Organizations in Washington State, including companies, universities, research institutions, local health jurisdictions, tribal governments, tribal entities, and Urban Indian Organizations are eligible to apply. Applicants must have a substantial presence in Washington, as determined by the CARE Board based on factors including, but not limited to the following: number and type of staff in Washington; state of incorporation; location of headquarters, research, or manufacturing facilities in Washington; or any combination of factors.
- Organizations may submit up to a maximum of three applications per funding cycle.
- Research project must aim to explore or address a cancer-related emergent public health issue.
- A hypothesis must be proposed and explored by specific research aims. Proposals that solely aim to collect data to document a public health issue or only provide or expand services are NOT eligible.

Grant Award and Use of Funds

- Up to two-year grant period
- Up to \$250,000 per grant award (up to \$125,000 per year); this amount includes indirect costs
- Grants are awarded to organizations in Washington State

- Projects with collaborations outside of Washington State are allowed; however, the principal investigator and the primary research activities must be located in Washington State and the majority of the CARE Fund grant award and non-state match funds must be allocated to recipients conducting research in Washington State

Non-State Match Funding (Required, potential for waiver upon request)

- Applicants must have a minimum one-to-one (1:1) match of non-state of Washington funds to the requested grant funds (or a waiver of the non-state match requirement approved by the CARE Fund). Industry sponsorships, foundation funds, federal sponsorships, etc. could qualify as a non-state match. In-kind support from a non-Washington source could qualify as a match if it is directly attributable to the proposed research project. The CARE Fund would require documentation of the committed in-kind support, including how the amount was determined and how it relates to the proposed research.
 - If the non-state match is not secured at the time of the application submission, a plan to secure the match to the requested funds must be submitted in the application. The matching funds must be secured at the time of award agreement execution.
 - Applicant organizations that are unable or anticipate that they will not be able to meet the non-state match requirement may request a full or partial waiver during the LOI phase of the application process. The non-state match waiver request must include the match amount to be waived and justification. If the applicant is unable to meet the 1:1 match requirement, a waiver for the portion of the non-state match to meet requirement must be approved by the CARE Fund to submit a full application and be eligible for an award.

Reporting Requirements

- Recipients must upload all manuscripts reporting results to a pre-print server upon submission to a peer-review journal

Application Process

Organizations that intend to submit a full application must submit a letter of intent (LOI) for each research project through the CARE Fund online grants management system. The Emergent Issues in Public Health LOI can be accessed via the [Emergent Issues in Public Health Program page](#) on the CARE Fund website. The LOI must be submitted by **Thursday, June 2, 2022, 5:00 p.m. (PT)**.

After the LOI is reviewed by the CARE Fund staff and/or contractors, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application online via the CARE Fund grants management system. The full Emergent Issues in Public Health grant application will be available to applicants after they are invited. Full applications must be submitted by **Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 5:00 p.m. (PT)**

The LOI and full application prompts and questions are available below.

Award decisions for this cycle are anticipated to be made in November 2022. Applicants will be notified of award decisions via email.

Application Review Process

Stage 1: Letter of Intent (LOI) Review

CARE Fund staff and/or contractors will review LOIs to assess the following:

1. Does the LOI contain all required elements?
2. Is the applicant eligible to apply under the Emergent Issues in Public Health grant opportunity?
3. Is the proposed project appropriate for the Emergent Issues in Public Health grant opportunity?
4. Does the applicant have matching funds, a plan for securing matching funds, or is the match waiver request approved?
5. The potential of the proposed project to help the CARE Fund meet its objectives and priorities.

CARE Fund will then invite selected applicants to submit a full application. The full online application will be available to applicants after they are invited.

Stage 2: Full Application Eligibility Screening

CARE Fund staff and/or contractors will screen submitted applications for eligibility and completeness according to the following questions:

1. Is the applicant organization eligible to apply under this grant opportunity (per the eligibility requirements listed in the RFP)?
2. Is the application responsive to the Emergent Issues in Public Health grant opportunity?
3. Does the proposal contain all required elements of the application?
4. Does the application appear to meet the non-state funding matching requirements?

If all questions above are answered 'Yes,' the application will move to Stage 3: Peer Review. An application may be returned to the Applicant for completion or clarification, then re-submitted, per the judgment of the CARE Fund Executive Director.

Stage 3: Peer Review

Independent peer review will be conducted by the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), or a comparable organization. AIBS, or a comparable organization, will recruit a panel of independent, expert, scientific reviewers with expertise in relevant areas of cancer research. Reviewers will evaluate the merit of the applications against the review criteria listed below. The review panel will then discuss the initial review findings, taking into consideration the CARE Fund program objectives and priorities, to arrive at a consensus on final scores and ratings for each application. Reviewers will summarize the review results for each application in a final review, which will include a justification of the final scoring, rating, and ranking (when applications are ranked) of the applications in the cohort.

The CARE Board will be provided with the final reviews, the cohort's ranked scores (when available) and associated ratings, and a narrative summary of the review panel's funding recommendations.

Stage 4: CARE Board Assessment and Award Decision

The CARE Board will make award decisions based on the scores and recommendations made by the independent scientific reviewers and will ensure that reviews align with the CARE Fund objectives and priorities. When deciding between applications of similar merit, the CARE Board may also consider program objectives and priorities, including but not limited to, cancer research discipline, type of cancer or emergent issue, or the geographic distribution of grantee organizations. The CARE Board will act in accordance with its Conflict-of-Interest Policy as well as Chapter 42.52 RCW (Ethics in Public Service) to avoid actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest.

Application Review Criteria

Eligible proposals will be evaluated against each of the following criteria:

Criterion 1. Significance (5 points)

- Significance of the proposed research focus to address an important public health issue as it relates to cancer.
- Potential for immediate tangible benefit to populations most affected by the public health issue.
- Degree to which successful completion of the project will extend understanding or open new pathways in the selected area of cancer research.

Criterion 2. Impact and Innovation (15 points)

- Degree to which successful completion of the proposed research activities will improve the short- and long-term impacts of the emergent public health issue among populations impacted by cancer in Washington State and beyond.
- Degree to which successful completion of the of the proposed research activities will contribute to the understanding of how public health interventions can reduce cancer risk and improve cancer interventions, from prevention to screening and diagnosis to treatment and survivorship, especially among populations for which cancer disparities are most prevalent or persistent.
- Degree to which the proposed research plan will translate results or current knowledge, concepts, methods, or technologies, into an innovative public health intervention to improve the health of populations and eliminate cancer disparities, especially among populations for which cancer disparities are most prevalent.
- Potential to leverage proposed research project results for additional extramural funding.

Criterion 3. Scientific and Technical Merit (15 points)

- Strength and merit of the proposed scientific approach.
- Degree to which the research methodologies and interventions are appropriate to address the proposed goals and objectives.
- Degree to which the research strategy establishes feasibility and manages risk to accomplish the proposed outcomes during the grant period.
- Suitable strategy for adhering to any applicable regulations, including protection for human and animal subjects.

Criterion 4. Research Team and Environment (10 points)

- Evidence of the Principal Investigator's qualifications to address the research question(s) in the proposed project.
- Evidence of complementary collaborations that provide appropriate expertise and perspectives to strengthen the research approach.
- Quality and scope of the Principal Investigator's management capacity.
- Potential of the research environment to contribute to the probability of success of the project.
- Degree to which Applicant Organization's infrastructure (e.g., instrumentation, facilities, financial support, and other resources) is adequate to support the proposed research.

Criterion 5. Budget (Unscored)

In addition to the criteria listed above, the review panel will take into consideration:

- Whether the proposed budget is justified and cost-effective.

- Whether the proposed budget will support completion of the research aims.
- Whether the proposed matching funds plan is reasonable.

In addition to the criteria listed above, the reviewers will take into consideration the CARE Fund objectives and priorities when assigning final scores and ratings to each application and ranking the applications within a cohort (when applications are ranked).

Review Scores and Ratings

The following table summarizes the review criteria and scores:

Review Criteria	Maximum Score
Significance	5
Impact and Innovation	15
Scientific and Technical Merit	15
Research Team and Environment	10
Total Score	45

Applications will be rated using the rating rubric shown below. The rating will concur with the total score and will reflect the overall funding recommendation.

Rating	Description of Rating	Total Score
Highly Recommended	Extremely well-organized and well-constructed application that demonstrates excellent scientific merit, innovation, and potential for impact; highly qualified investigators in a good research environment with high potential to complete the proposed project and address an emergent public health issue.	40–45
Recommended	Well-constructed application that demonstrates strong scientific merit, innovation, and potential for impact; highly qualified investigators in a good research environment with high potential to complete the proposed project and address an emergent public health issue.	35–39
Worthy of Consideration	Sufficiently constructed application that demonstrates good scientific merit, innovation, and potential for impact; investigators in a research environment with satisfactory potential to complete the proposed project and address an emergent public health issue.	25–34
Not Recommended	Application that demonstrates major weaknesses in the scientific significance and potential for impact; investigators in the	0–24

	research environment have limited potential to complete the proposed project and address an emergent public health issue.	
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Overall Ranking within the Cohort

Applications within the cohort may be ranked numerically (1 = highest ranked) based on the (i) final score, (ii) rating, and (iii) the CARE Fund objectives and priorities for funding decisions (listed above). When applications are ranked, rankings will concur with the ratings assigned to all applications within the cohort and will reflect the review panel’s funding recommendations.

Intellectual Property

Grantees must report all inventions developed through CARE grant-funded activities or research projects to the CARE Fund. The CARE Fund does not intend to assert ownership of any invention that is derived from CARE funded research. However, if the grantee organization, or any subcontractor, decides not to take title and file an application for intellectual property protection, the CARE Fund would then have the option to take title. The grantee must notify the CARE Fund prior to any publication of the invention so as to allow the CARE Fund to take title and pursue or maintain intellectual property protection.

The CARE Fund does not expect to require payback of grants awarded based on income generated from sale or commercialization of any inventions resulting from CARE grant-funded activities or research. This approach is intended to minimize intellectual property-related barriers for potential applicants and encourage pursuit of transformational research.

The CARE Fund must be listed as a funder in all presentations, publications, and patent applications.

Confidentiality

Information in grant applications is received by the CARE Fund with the understanding that it shall be used or disclosed for the evaluation of applications or as required by law. The CARE Fund holds all applications confidential in accordance with its confidentiality procedures and subject to the public disclosure laws of the state of Washington. All applicants are advised that information provided to the CARE Fund, including an applicant’s proprietary and confidential information, are considered public records under Washington’s Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW. Generally, public records are subject to disclosure unless an exemption to disclosure applies. Information provided to the CARE Fund may be protected from potential Public Records request disclosure to the extent provided under RCW 42.56.270(29).

The CARE Fund may make use of information contained in applications for purposes of transparency and publicity, including, but not limited to: applicant name; applicant organization; project title; funding amount requested; and applicant profile. For unfunded applications, the CARE Fund will not publicly release the abstract or narrative of the proposed work, budget details, or any identifiers regarding co-applicant organizations, to the extent disclosure of this information might reasonably be expected to result in private loss to the applicant organizations, and as is consistent with public disclosure laws of the state of Washington. If a proposal is funded, the CARE Fund may make public additional information from the application, including, but not limited to: project abstract; funding amount; names and profiles of the investigators or collaborating organizations.

The CARE Fund reserves the right to publicly disseminate information about a grantee's activities through public reports, its website, press releases, speaking engagements, and other public venues. To the extent allowable under Washington State law, the CARE Fund shall not publicly disclose information that has been marked as proprietary or confidential if such information has not been previously disclosed to the public, or other information to the extent that provision of such information would reasonably be expected to result in private loss to the providers of such information.

Contact Information

Please contact Peter Choi (peter@wacarefund.org) for questions regarding this announcement.

Emergent Issues in Public Health Grant Cycle 3 – Letter of Intent and Full Application Prompts

Letter of Intent (Required)

Organizations that intend to submit a full application must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for each research project through the CARE Fund’s online grants system. The Emergent Issues in Public Health LOI can be accessed via the [Emergent Issues in Public Health Program page](#) on the CARE Fund website. The LOI must be submitted by **Thursday, June 2, 2022, 5:00 p.m. (PT)**. The online LOI form will include the following prompts and questions. [Note: Applicants should consider protecting any potential intellectual property or confidential information before disclosing it in the LOI. Proprietary, privileged, confidential commercial, patentable ideas, trade secrets, etc. should only be included in the LOI to the extent necessary to convey an understanding of the research project proposal. *Such information should be **clearly marked** in the LOI materials as confidential, proprietary, or privileged information.*¹]

1. Applicant Organization Type
2. Applicant Organization Corporate Status
3. WA State OMWBE Certified Business. Is the applicant organization a Washington State certified minority-, women-, or veteran-owned business?
4. Does the Applicant Organization have a substantial presence in Washington State?
5. Contact Person for the LOI
6. Project Name. Enter the name of the research project title. (250 characters or less)
7. Principal Investigator (Name; Position; Email)

¹ All applicants to CARE Fund Grant Programs are advised that information provided to the CARE Fund, including an applicant’s proprietary and confidential information, are considered public records under Washington’s Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW. Generally, public records are subject to disclosure unless an exemption to disclosure applies. Much of the information provided to the CARE Fund may be protected from potential Public Records request disclosure to the extent provided under RCW 42.56.270(29). RCW 42.56.270(29) is an exemption in the Public Records Act that applies specifically to records provided in the context of a CARE Fund application and grant implementation. It exempts “Financial, commercial, operations, and technical and research information and data submitted to or obtained by the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment program in applications for, or delivery of, grants under Chapter 43.348 RCW, to the extent that such information, if revealed, would reasonably be expected to result in private loss to providers of this information.” However, applicants should be aware that their information will be subject to disclosure unless this or another exemption applies.

The applicant may be notified of any public records request regarding their application and be given an opportunity to provide further information specifying why the information should be exempt from disclosure, and an opportunity to assert objections to disclosure and seek a protective order. The CARE Fund will determine, in its sole discretion, whether to assert RCW 42.56.270(29) or any other available public records exemption.

8. Project Personnel. Provide a complete list of the personnel for the project, including any independent researcher associated with the proposed research (even as a consultant). For each person, include their name, project role, and organization. [Note: This list will be used to avoid potential conflicts of interest in identifying the peer review panel. Personnel listed in the full application but that are not included in the LOI may result in a delay in application review.]
9. Project Performance Site(s). Provide the primary performance site for this proposal and any other performance sites. For each site, list the organization name and location (city and state).
10. Research project key words (200 characters or less)
11. Research Project Summary. Provide a brief summary of the proposed research project, including but not limited to the overall goal of the project, the area of cancer research, and the emergent public health issue to be addressed. (2000 characters or less)
12. CARE Fund Grant amount to be requested
13. Non-State Match. A minimum one-to-one (1:1) non-state match is required to the requested grant amount unless a waiver is approved. A full or partial waiver of the non-state match requirement is available upon approval by the CARE Fund. [NOTE: Applicants that are assessed to not be able to meet the 1:1 non-state match requirement through secured contributions or by a waiver are not eligible for an award and will not be invited to submit a full application.]
 - a. Non-State Match Amount. Enter the amount of the non-state matching contributions secured or that will be secured prior to the project start date.
 - b. Non-State Match Amount (Waiver Request). Enter the amount of non-state matching funds that is requested to be waived.
 - c. If requesting a partial or full waiver of the non-state match requirement, provide a brief explanation of the need and justification for waiver. (2500 characters or less)

CARE Fund staff will approve or disapprove the applicant's LOI. Approved applicants will be invited to submit a full application through the CARE Fund's online grants system.

Full Application (Required, After Invitation)

Applicants must submit a full application online through the CARE Fund’s online grants system. The Emergent Issues in Public Health grant application will be available to applicants after their LOI has been approved by the CARE Fund. The full application must be submitted by Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 5:00 p.m. (PT). The online application form will include the prompts and questions listed below. [NOTE: Applicants should consider protecting any potential intellectual property or confidential information before disclosing it in the application. Proprietary, privileged, confidential commercial, patentable ideas, trade secrets, etc. should only be included in the application to the extent necessary to convey an understanding of the research project proposal. *Such information should be **clearly marked** in the application materials as confidential, proprietary, or privileged information.*^{2]}

Please respond to the following prompts and questions in the online application. (Application uploads should follow NIH font and line spacing guidelines <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/format-attachments.htm#font>.)

1. Applicant Organization Type
2. Applicant Organization Corporate Status
3. WA State OMWBE Certified. Is the applicant organization a Washington State certified minority-, women-, or veteran-owned business?
4. Does the Applicant Organization have a substantial presence in Washington State?
5. Project Name. Enter the name of the research project title. (250 characters or less)
6. Project Period (Project Start Date–Project End Date)
7. Is proprietary/privileged information included in this application? [Note: Applicants should consider protecting any potential intellectual property or confidential information before

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The applicant may be notified of any public records request regarding their application and be given an opportunity to provide further information specifying why the information should be exempt from disclosure, and an opportunity to assert objections to disclosure and seek a protective order. The CARE Fund will determine, in its sole discretion, whether to assert RCW 42.56.270(29) or any other available public records exemption.

disclosing it in the application. Proprietary, privileged, confidential commercial, patentable ideas, trade secrets, etc. should only be included in the application to the extent necessary to convey an understanding of the research project proposal. *Such information should be **clearly marked** in the application materials as confidential, proprietary, or privileged information.]*

8. Contact Person for this Application (Full Name, Position, Email)
9. Principal Investigator (Name, Title, Institution, Email, Phone)
10. Project Personnel. Complete and upload the CARE Fund Grant Key Personnel Form. The form will ask for each person's project role, name, highest degree, title, department, organization name, and location. The personnel form is available on the [Emergent Issues in Public Health Program page](#) on the CARE Fund website.
11. Biosketches for Principal Investigator and Key Personnel (Upload. NIH format, Limit 5 pages per biosketch)
12. Research Project Summary. Provide a brief summary of the proposed research project, including but not limited to the overall goal of the project, the area of cancer research, and the emergent public health issue to be addressed. (2000 characters or less)
13. Project Performance Site(s). Provide the primary performance site (legal name and physical address) for this proposal, and any other performance site(s). For each site, provide the organization's legal name and physical address.
14. Human Subjects. Does the proposed research project involve Human Subjects?
 - a. If yes, Institutional Review Board (IRB) status. (Approved/Pending/Exempt/Not Applicable)
 - b. IRB Approval Date
 - c. Human Subjects Assurance Number
 - d. Human Subjects Assurance. If Human Subjects are involved, provide sufficient information to demonstrate to reviewers that the IRB designation/approval status of human subject involvement is appropriate. (2000 characters or less)
15. Application Budget. Complete and upload the CARE Fund Grant Application Detailed Budget Form. The detailed budget should include the total costs for project, including requested CARE Fund grant, non-state match funds, and funds from any other sources. The budget form is available on the [Emergent Issues in Public Health Program page](#) on the CARE Fund website.
 - Andy Hill CARE Grant Funds (Requested)
 - Non-State Match Funds (include both the non-state match amount that has been secured and the amount that will be secured prior to the project start date)
 - All Other Funds (including funds from Washington State sources, if available)
16. Budget Justification. Provide a justification for the project budget. For all key personnel for the project, include an explanation for the proposed level of effort. (Upload, Limit 4 pages)
17. Research Project Proposal. The project proposal should include the following sections:

- a. Research Plan. Identify the major research question(s) to be pursued and the significance, approach, innovation, and feasibility of the proposed project. The research plan should also clearly identify and provide evidence of the emergent public health issue and how the research will address the emergent issue.
- b. Research Team and Environment. Include the key collaborations and those that may need to be developed.
- c. Impacts. Identify the anticipated short- and long-term impacts in cancer research, clinical interventions, cancer prevention, cancer health disparities, and/or public health.

(Upload, Limit 8 pages, including figures. References not included in page limit.)

18. Facilities and Other Resources. Describe how the applicant organization's infrastructure (e.g., instrumentation, facilities, financial support, and other resources) and environment will contribute to the success of the proposed research project. (Upload, Limit 1 page)
19. Research Project Milestones and Timeline. For specific instructions, review the CARE Fund Milestones-Timeline Guidance document available on the [Emergent Issues in Public Health Program page](#) on the CARE Fund website. (Upload, Limit 2 page)
20. Proof of Non-State Match.
 - a. Select the status of the non-state match for the project (Select all that apply.) (Secured; Fund Development Plan; Partial Waiver; Full Waiver).
 - b. Non-state match. Submit proof and/or commitment of matching (non-state of Washington) funds or contributions or the fund development plan. If the non-state match has not yet been secured at the time of application, provide the plan for securing the matching funds prior to the project start. Non-state matching funds (a minimum of 1:1 of the CARE Fund grant) must be secured before a grant award can be executed unless a waiver has been provided by the CARE Fund. [Note: Availability of non-state match funds to the grant award is NOT a criterion in the evaluation of the application. Proof of matching contributions may be accomplished by providing a written, binding, enforceable agreement from the contributor that commits an amount of non-state of Washington or private contributions. The document must include a definitive statement that a non-state or private contribution is committed, including the amount, AND acknowledge that the CARE Fund grant award is contingent upon this contribution.]
 - c. Amount of non-state match secured
 - d. Amount of non-state match planned. This is the match amount that is not yet secured but will be secured prior to the project start.
 - e. Amount of non-state match waived. This is the match amount that has been waived by the CARE Fund.

21. Will the principal investigator or the research team interact with end-users (as defined by the researcher) of their research before, during, or after the proposed project?
- a. Select all that apply
 - i. Before project commencement
 - ii. During the project
 - iii. After project completion
 - b. If yes to any of the above, please describe. (1500 characters or less)
22. Other Supporting Information (Optional). Previous results, letters of support, and other documents to strengthen the application may be submitted. Combine all documents as a single file with a cover page that lists the supporting documents. from collaborators, etc.) (Upload, Limit 5 pages, not including cover page)

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