



Implementation and Outcomes Research Cycle 2

Request for Proposals

June 04, 2025

Implementation and Outcomes Research	
Program Purpose	This grant opportunity is intended to support innovative investigators from eligible organizations to translate promising research and scientific discoveries into the development of tools, devices, technologies, therapeutics, or interventions related to cancer that have the potential to address cancer care across the implementation/translational cancer research continuum. CARE Fund encourages research projects that aim to address issues across the cancer control continuum, from etiology to survivorship, that have high potential to ultimately advance cancer care, lessen the burden of cancer, and improve health outcomes. Projects that include a provision of services that includes quantifiable outcomes data suitable for efficacy research are eligible.
Application Deadline	August 06, 2025, 4:00 p.m. (PT).
Project Period	Up to 2 years, expected start date May 1, 2026.
Award Amount	\$250,000 to \$1,500,000 for project duration, inclusive of direct and indirect costs. Grant requires a one-to-one (1:1) non-state match to grant award.
Eligible Applicants	Eligible organizations may apply for and receive grants for cancer research to be conducted in Washington. Eligible organizations include but are not limited to companies, higher education institutions, research institutions, local health jurisdictions, tribal governments, tribal entities, nonprofit institutions, and Urban Indian Organizations. Applicant organizations must have a substantial presence in Washington, as determined by the CARE Board. Applicant organizations may submit up to five (5) applications for this funding opportunity, but a Principal Investigator may not submit more than one application per cycle.

ANDY HILL CANCER RESEARCH ENDOWMENT

The Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE) Fund was established in 2015 by the state legislature as a bold public-private partnership to promote cancer research in Washington. With the establishment of the CARE Fund, the state is making a commitment to support the cancer research ecosystem with sustained investment to promote cancer research aimed at improving the quality of life of the people of Washington.

The objectives of the Andy Hill CARE Fund (from RCW 43.348.005) include the following:

- Optimize the use of public funds by giving priority to research utilizing the best science and technology with the greatest potential to improve health outcomes;
- Increase the value of our public investments by leveraging our state's existing cancer research facilities and talent, as well as clinical and therapeutic resources;
- Incentivize additional investment by requiring private or other non-state resources to match public funds;
- Create jobs and encourage investments that will generate new tax revenues in our state; and
- Advance the biotech, medical device, and health care information technology industries in Washington.

I. OVERVIEW AND SCOPE

This grant opportunity seeks to support innovative and meritorious cancer researchers, at all levels, and teams seeking to translate promising research and scientific discoveries into effective interventions, tools, devices, technologies, or therapeutics related to cancer. This funding opportunity seeks to support the implementation or translation of innovative ideas in cancer research that significantly advances one or more of the following:

- Improve cancer prevention and early detection (e.g., novel screening methods, risk reduction strategies);
- Improve cancer diagnosis and treatment (e.g., implementation of more precise diagnostics, effective therapies, personalized medicine approaches); or
- Improve patient outcomes and quality of life (e.g., treatment efficacy, including reduced side effects, enhance patient well-being).

Proposed projects should focus on translating scientific discoveries and research findings into effective interventions or evaluating the outcomes of implementing such interventions in cancer research. Projects should be positioned along the translation and implementation cancer research continuum, ideally closer to the launch phase of a product or intervention or focused on assessing the impact of a product or intervention. These projects should expand current understanding and seek to create new knowledge. Projects can include a provision of services that includes quantifiable outcomes data suitable for efficacy research. As the goal of this funding opportunity is to support research on devices/therapeutics/interventions that will be used in human subjects, applicants are encouraged to involve a clinical Principal Investigator on the team, preferably during grant application development.

For current and past CARE Fund grantees, proposed projects should be distinct from or aim to substantially advance previously CARE Fund grant supported research.

The following types of projects are generally not aligned with the Implementation and Outcomes Research funding opportunity purpose: capital improvement projects; projects primarily focused on quality improvement of processes related to the delivery or implementation of existing therapeutics, tools, or interventions; and projects that primarily seek funding for advertisement and promotion for commercialization.

Projects that seek to develop knowledge of basic principles or mechanisms related to cancer focused on basic research or proof of concept or validation of new discoveries rather than implementing or translating such findings to a device/therapeutic/intervention should apply to the Scientific Discoveries Research funding opportunity anticipated to be announced in January 2026.

II. APPLICATION CHARACTERISTICS

Eligibility

- Eligible organizations may apply for and receive grants for cancer research to be conducted in Washington. Eligible organizations include but are not limited to companies, higher education institutions, research institutions, local health jurisdictions, tribal governments, tribal entities, nonprofit institutions, and Urban Indian Organizations. Applicant organizations must have a substantial presence in Washington, as determined by the CARE Board after consideration of relevant factors such as the number and type of staff in Washington; state of incorporation; registration in Washington State, location of headquarters, research, or manufacturing facilities in Washington; or any combination of such factors. At least 75% of the CARE Fund grant award and at least 75% of any required non-state match contribution must be allocated to entities for research activities performed in Washington State.
- The purchase of supplies, materials, reagents, and equipment (used and located in Washington State) for use in research activities in Washington State that are purchased from entities outside the state of Washington are considered allocated for research activities performed in Washington State, and not considered to be allocated to out-of-state researchers or entities.
- Organizations may submit up to five (5) applications for this funding opportunity, but a Principal Investigator may not submit more than one application per cycle.
- Applicants should ensure their submission follows their organization's internal processes on limited submissions. If more than five applications from an organization are submitted, then only the first five submitted will be accepted and considered for review.

Grant Matching Fund Requirements

- Applicants must submit proof of their secured minimum one-to-one (1:1) match of non-state of Washington funds to requested grant funds. Applicants must also demonstrate that the required matching funds will be available and dedicated for use during the grant period. At CARE Fund's sole discretion, applications that fail to sufficiently demonstrate the non-state match funds requirements (e.g., nonstate source, availability of match for the grant period, etc.) may be determined ineligible for an award and not advanced for review.

Grant Award and Use of Funds

- The project period may be up to two years (24 months). Budget expenses may be allocated over the project period as needed, commensurate with the timeline and milestones.

- The total grant request (direct and indirect costs) over the project period may not exceed \$1,500,000 and may not be less than \$250,000. The total grant request is the CARE Fund grant portion only. The total project budget, including the non-state matching contributions, will be at minimum two times the total grant request amount. **Grant payments will be made as reimbursement for actual expenditures. Grant payments will generally be made on an annual basis.**
 - o The amount of funding requested should reflect the scope of the project and the appropriate budget for a two-year project period. The maximum award amount is not an indication of the ideal project size, rather it is an award size limit. CARE Fund is interested in innovative projects of all sizes. Requests for smaller grants are allowed and encouraged.
 - o Grant funds may be used to purchase capital equipment, but the equipment must be essential to achieve the research or product development aims as detailed in the project research plan.
 - o Indirect costs are allowed at the current federally negotiated rate or the rate in place as of February 6, 2025, whichever is greater. If the applicant did not have a federally negotiated rate as of February 6, 2025, the indirect cost rate may not exceed 30%.
- Projects with collaborations outside of Washington State are allowed; however, at least 75% of the CARE Fund grant award and required non-state match contribution must be allocated to research activities conducted in Washington State. No more than 25% of the CARE Fund grant funds awarded may be provided to out-of-state researchers and entities as required to complete the project awarded the grant. The purchase of supplies, materials, reagents, and equipment (used and located in Washington State) for use in research activities in Washington State that are purchased from entities outside the state of Washington are considered allocated for research activities performed in Washington State, and not considered to be allocated to out-of-state researchers or entities.
- All grants will be made in accordance with the CARE Fund's policies and applicable laws, including the CARE Fund statute (Chapter 43.348 Revised Code of Washington).

III. TIMELINE AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted through the CARE Fund grants management system, which can be accessed via the CARE Fund website. The grant application will be available to applicants by **Wednesday, June 4, 2025**, and the application must be submitted by **Wednesday August 6, 2025, 4:00 p.m. (PT)**.

The application prompts and questions are available on the Implementation and Outcomes Research page on the CARE Fund website.

Award decisions for this opportunity are anticipated to be made in March 2026. Applicants will be notified of award decisions via email.

An applicant choosing to submit a complaint to CARE Fund regarding the request for proposal (RFP) must do so in writing and submit the complaint to CARE Fund via email using the grants@wacarefund.org address within 10 calendar days of RFP announcement. The complaint must clearly articulate the basis for the complaint and include a proposed remedy.

CARE Fund will respond to the complaint in writing. Any changes to the RFP will be publicly posted. CARE Fund's action or inaction in response to the complaint is final. There is no further complaint or appeal process.

Estimated Timeline

Call for Proposals Announced	Jun 4, 2025
Q & A Period Closes	Jul 7, 2025
Application Deadline	Aug 6, 2025
Independent Scientific Peer Review	Oct–Dec 2025
CARE Board Award Decision	Mar 2026
Award Agreements Executed	Apr 2026
Anticipated Start Date	May 2026
Project Support	Up to 2 years (24 months) from project start date

CARE Fund reserves the right to revise the above schedule or to withdraw or amend the RFP.

Application Review Process

Stage 1: Application Review

CARE Fund and/or contractors will screen the applications to assess the following:

- Does the application contain all required elements?
- Is the applicant eligible to apply under this funding opportunity?
- Is the proposed project appropriate and responsive for this funding opportunity?
- Does the proposed project have the potential to meet CARE Fund objectives and priorities?

If all questions above are answered “Yes,” the application will move to Stage 2: 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 2: 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 the relevant areas of cancer research. Reviewers will initially evaluate the merit of the applications against the review criteria listed below. The review panel will then meet to discuss the initial review findings, taking into consideration CARE Fund program objectives and priorities, to arrive at 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. Overall impact scores are rounded to the nearest whole number to determine the funding recommendation rating.

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 3: 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 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.

IV. APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

Eligible applications will be evaluated against each of the following criteria for an Overall Impact Score. All four factors will be considered in arriving at the overall impact score. The criteria factors serve to focus reviewers on three central questions when evaluating the application:

1. How important is the proposed research?
2. How rigorous and feasible are the methods?
3. To what degree do the investigator(s) and institution have the expertise and resources necessary to successfully carry out the project?

Overall Impact

Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, major influence on the cancer research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following review criteria and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed).

Review Factors

Reviewers will evaluate Factors 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the determination of scientific merit, and in providing an overall impact score. In addition, Factors 1 and 2 will each receive a separate factor score. An application does not necessarily need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have a major scientific impact.

Factor 1. Importance of the Research (Score 1-9)

Significance

- Evaluate the importance of the proposed research in the context of current scientific challenges and opportunities, either for advancing knowledge within the field, or more broadly.
- Assess whether the application addresses an important gap in knowledge in the field, would solve a critical problem, or create a valuable conceptual or technical advance.
- Evaluate the rationale for undertaking the study, the rigor of the scientific background for the work (e.g., prior literature and/or preliminary data) and whether the scientific background justifies the proposed study.
- If the investigator/applicant organization has received CARE Fund grants in the 37 months prior to the application deadline, evaluate whether the proposed project is distinct enough from previously funded project(s) to warrant further funding and whether the proposed project has the potential to ready the diagnostic/treatment/intervention under development for implementation.

Innovation

- Evaluate the extent to which innovation influences the importance of undertaking the proposed research. Note that while technical or conceptual innovation can influence the importance of the proposed research, a project that is not applying novel concepts or approaches may be of critical importance for the field.

- Evaluate whether the proposed work applies novel concepts, methods or technologies or uses existing concepts, methods, and technologies in novel ways, to enhance the overall impact of the project.

Factor 2. Rigor and Feasibility (Score 1-9)

Approach

- Evaluate the scientific quality of the proposed work.
- Evaluate the likelihood that compelling, reproducible findings will result.
- Assess whether the proposed studies can be done well and within the timeframes proposed (feasibility).

Rigor

- Evaluate the potential to produce unbiased, reproducible, robust data.
- Evaluate the rigor of the experimental design and whether appropriate controls are in place.
- Evaluate whether the sample size is sufficient and well-justified.
- Assess the quality of the plans for analysis, interpretation, and reporting of results.
- Evaluate whether the application includes adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as sex or age, in the design, analysis, and reporting.
- For applications involving human subjects or vertebrate animals, also evaluate:
 - the rigor of the intervention or study manipulation (if applicable to the study design).
 - whether outcome variables are justified.
 - whether the results will be generalizable or, in the case of a rare disease/special group, relevant to the particular subgroup.
 - whether the sample is appropriate and sufficiently diverse to address the proposed question(s).
- For applications involving human subjects, including clinical trials, assess the adequacy of inclusion plans as appropriate for the scientific goals of the research. Considerations of appropriateness may include:
 - disease/condition/behavior incidence, prevalence, or population burden, population representation, and/or current state of the science.
 - ability to offer trial participants information in a language other than English.
 - ability to provide culturally specific recruitment materials alongside general enrollment materials.
 - ability to provide electronic consent when not prohibited by other granting entities or federal regulations.
 - other evidence of outreach and engagement to increase participation of underrepresented communities in clinical trials of drugs and medical devices.

Feasibility

- Evaluate whether the proposed approach is sound and achievable. For proposed studies in which feasibility may be less certain, evaluate whether the uncertainty is balanced by the potential for major advances.
- Evaluate whether the proposed contingency plans adequately address risks or new challenges that emerge in the work relative to the project aims and timeline.
- For applications involving human subjects, including clinical trials, evaluate the adequacy and feasibility of the plan to recruit and retain an appropriately diverse population of participants. Additionally, evaluate the likelihood of successfully achieving the proposed enrollment based on age, racial, ethnic, and sex/gender categories.
- For clinical trial applications, evaluate whether the study timeline and milestones are feasible.

Factor 3. Expertise (not scored) - Sufficient/Insufficient Investigator(s)

- Evaluate whether the investigator(s) have the demonstrated background, training, and expertise, as appropriate for their career stage, to conduct the proposed work. For Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI) applications, assess the quality of the leadership plan to facilitate coordination and collaboration.
 - For applications involving clinical trials or devices/therapeutics that are close to clinical testing, evaluate to what degree the project team includes clinicians with requisite expertise during the appropriate phases of the project including development, recruitment, and implementation.
- Evaluate whether the commitment of the investigator(s)'s time and effort allocated to the project is realistic and achievable.

Factor 4. Resources (not scored) - Sufficient/Insufficient

Environment

- Evaluate whether the institutional resources are appropriate to ensure the successful execution of the project aims and whether the applicant organization has the capacity to support the work plan.
- Evaluate whether the proposed management plan and intellectual property plan will support successful execution of project aims and grant administration.

Budget

- Evaluate whether the proposed budget is justified and cost-effective.
- Evaluate whether the proposed budget is aligned with the milestones and timeline and sufficient to support completion of the project aims.
- Evaluate whether the proposed contingency plans adequately address risks or new challenges relative to the project budget.

V. **RATING**

Rating	Description of Rating	Overall Impact Score
Highly Recommended	Demonstrates high potential to impact the field of cancer research or cancer care and strong scientific merit and approach. Meets the stated goals and objectives of the funding opportunity. Extremely well-constructed Proposal.	1–3
Recommended	Demonstrates potential to impact the field of cancer research or cancer care and strong scientific merit and approach. Meets the stated goals and objectives of the funding opportunity. Well-constructed Proposal.	4–6
Not Recommended	Demonstrates major weaknesses that will likely decrease the potential for successful completion of the proposed project and impact in the field of cancer research or cancer care. Limited potential to meet the stated goals and objectives of the funding opportunity. Unsatisfactorily constructed Proposal.	7–9

VI. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Grantees must certify that they have policies in place regarding ownership and management of intellectual property and its protection. Grantees must report all inventions, whether or not patented or patentable or copyrighted or copyrightable, that are developed through CARE grant-funded activities or research projects to the CARE Fund in a timely manner. 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. Successful projects will stimulate economic development through job creation and infusion of additional research funds to Washington. Products derived from these inventions will then be available to the public, with the expectation that it will improve health outcomes for the people of Washington and globally.

The “Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE) Fund” must be listed as a funder in all presentations, publications, and patent applications.

VII. 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 CARE Fund’s confidentiality practices, subject to public disclosure laws of the state of Washington and other applicable laws. 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 under RCW 42.56.270(29), to the extent applicable in the CARE Board’s sole discretion.

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 or as otherwise required by law. 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, online, social media, press releases, speaking engagements, and other public venues. To the extent allowable under Washington State law or other applicable 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.

VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please email any questions regarding this grant announcement to: grants@wacarefund.org. Questions regarding this RFP will be accepted after the RFP is issued until 9 a.m. (PT) July 7, 2025. As applicable, an Addendum addressing answers to questions will be posted to the RFP webpage approximately weekly through July 14, 2025. As applicable, the final Addendum addressing questions will be posted on or about July 14, 2025. CARE Fund may not be able to respond to questions received after the close of the Questions and Answers period.