



## **Request for Proposals: Health Equity Project Principal Investigator**

On behalf of its sponsored project, the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (Andy Hill CARE Fund), Evergreen Social Impact is soliciting proposals for a Principal Investigator to work in partnership with a Partnership Development Consultant, a Subject Matter Expert and Care Fund leadership to produce a report including recommendations to King County decisionmakers to address health disparities in the population of King County created or exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, and to enhance access.

### **ABOUT THE ANDY HILL CARE FUND**

The CARE Fund was created in 2015 and works to promote and invest in cancer research to improve the quality of life for the people of Washington. The Fund's objectives are to optimize the use of public funds to prioritize research with the greatest potential to improve health outcomes; leverage our state's cancer research facilities, talent, clinical and therapeutic resources; and positively impact our economy through requiring matching funds, creating jobs, encouraging investments, and advancing our biotech, medical device, and health care information technology industries.

To date, the CARE Fund has awarded 26 cancer research grants of nearly \$23M in total. Grantees have contributed to peer-reviewed research publications, leveraged CARE Fund grants for significant additional investments, and run research labs and programs supporting dozens of jobs.

### **ABOUT EVERGREEN SOCIAL IMPACT**

Founded in 2021, Evergreen Social Impact (ESI) is a nonprofit fiscal sponsor organization that provides fiduciary services, including governance, funds management, and other administrative services to projects with social-impact missions. We can act as a 'nonprofit incubator' for new entities that are in start-up mode, or as a long-term administrative home for tax-exempt and public/private partnership organizations. By providing an administrative hub for our sponsored projects, we give them the freedom to focus on their missions.

ESI works to strengthen mission-driven organizations and achieve enduring impact in the Pacific Northwest by developing shared infrastructure and expertise, building a culture of partnership, and advancing equity.

Evergreen Social Impact is currently the fiscal sponsor for the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment

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(CARE) Fund, a cancer research grantmaking entity that is a public/private partnership established by the Washington Legislature in 2015. (Chapter 43.348 RCW)

## **OPPORTUNITY**

Evergreen Social Impact (ESI) requests proposals to contract with a Principal Investigator/Economist.

The Principal Investigator will work in partnership with a Partnership Development Consultant, a Subject Matter Expert and Care Fund leadership to develop and produce a report including recommendations to King County decisionmakers to address health disparities in the population of King County created or exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, and to enhance access.

We will prioritize candidates with one or more of the following: Experience in the report subject matter; existing administrative and legislative relationships; effective communication skills; a clear understanding of the legislative and budgetary process; and sound knowledge of public health, health equity, and/or life sciences sector stakeholders.

This contract will begin on or about August 1, 2022 and will continue until on or about December 31, 2022 (or as extended). The contract may be terminated at any time based on continued availability of grant funds.

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

### *Background*

King County Council passed ordinance 19318, as amended by ordinance 19443, directing \$500,000 to the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE Fund) to address health disparities in King County that have been exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to establish a more equitable workforce in the healthcare industry in King County.

This program seeks a set of recommendations for decisionmakers to address health disparities in the population of King County created or exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, and to enhance access to community health services through establishment of a more equitable healthcare workforce.

Evergreen Social Impact is contracted to deliver program administration services to the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE) Fund, including financial and accounting management for the CARE Fund. Evergreen Social Impact's mission is to strengthen mission-driven organizations and achieve enduring impact in the Pacific Northwest by developing shared infrastructure and expertise, building a culture of partnership, and advancing equity. Evergreen Social Impact serves as fiscal sponsor for this King County grant to the CARE Fund and will be responsible for financial management of the grant and ensuring that all contract deliverables are completed. The CARE Fund will be responsible for leading the program implementation, including development and submission of the final report per the County's appropriation.

Racial/ethnic health disparities are higher rates of serious health conditions or deaths that affect communities of color. These disparities can result in shorter lifespans and lower quality of life, are

rooted in inequities in the opportunities and resources needed for good health, such as education, employment, safe and healthy neighborhoods, and access to health care. These inequities are often the result of current and historical institutionalized racism or explicit racial bias.

Existing racial/ethnic health disparities were exacerbated and amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to historic and ongoing systemic racism and discrimination, people in certain race and ethnic groups experience worse social, economic, and health outcomes than other groups. These social, economic, and health conditions may place these groups at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness and/or make them more likely to experience hardship due to the social distancing orders and economic impacts of the pandemic.

Among confirmed cases where race/ethnicity data is available, evidence indicates that COVID-19 deaths are disproportionately higher among certain communities of color. Data further show that people of color account for the majority of COVID-19 cases and deaths known among health care workers, and they are more likely to be in health care worker roles and settings that have particularly high risks of workplace exposure.

In addition to the disproportionate COVID-19 deaths among health care workers of color, the pandemic has driven burnout among health care workers to crisis levels. These impacts on the health care workforce are driving some stakeholders to call for systemic solutions to retain critical personnel while preparing a new generation to take the field.

The purpose of this program is to bring together stakeholders to develop a set of recommendations for decision makers to address population health disparities in King County created or exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, and to enhance access to community health services through establishment of a more equitable healthcare workforce. The stakeholder process is designed to produce a set of recommended action steps for health care policy and service changes, including workforce issues.

#### *Project*

The CARE Fund will examine opportunities for building a more equitable healthcare workforce to address health disparities in King County that have been exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A stakeholder group will work with a research lead (Principal Investigator) to assess the impacts of COVID-19 and resulting trends in the current healthcare workforce. An examination of models designed to mitigate negative COVID-19 impacts on the retention, recruitment, and development of an equitable healthcare workforce will be included in the final report. The report will highlight workforce-related promising ideas for addressing disparities in cancer prevention and cancer care in King County that were exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report will examine opportunities for building a more equitable healthcare workforce to address health disparities in King County that have been exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This project is seeking to incorporate the good (e.g., creative outreach/technology solutions) learned from the pandemic to improve the complicated and cascading health access issues by proposing equitable workforce solutions to address such needs.

A final report will be provided to King County Council to address health disparities in the population of King County created or exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, and to enhance healthcare access. The final report may also be provided to the Governor-appointed board of directors of the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE) Fund.

*Activities:*

CARE Fund will convene three meetings of stakeholders representing labor, business, healthcare systems, and communities highly impacted by COVID-19. The meetings may be held virtually or in-person. Work may be conducted in smaller workgroups in between meetings and then brought back to the full group convening.

The tentative objective(s) for each of the three meetings is outlined below:

- Meeting #1: Overview, goal setting, milestones, and processes
- Meeting #2: Refine report question(s), Examine models from other localities/“Bright-spotting”
- Meeting #3: Review draft report findings and recommendations

*Contracted Services:*

Evergreen Social Impact will contract for the following consultant positions for the project with primary responsibilities as follows:

- Principal Investigator/Economist (this RFP)
  - Produce Draft Report, Final Draft Report, and Final Report
- Partnership Development Consultant
  - Coordinate with CARE Fund staff to form and engage the stakeholder group. This role will also be responsible for working with the Principal Investigator and staff to conduct interviews and document results from the interviews.
- Subject Matter Expert
  - Expert in the study of COVID-19 impact on the healthcare workforce and patient populations in King County.

**FEES**

Total compensation under this contract will be inclusive of travel and other routine business expenses.

**CONTRACT TERM**

The expected term of this contract will be August 2022 through December 2022, with the possibility to extend or renew thereafter upon mutual agreement of both parties if a second phase project is funded.

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

Proposals should be submitted via email, with “Health Equity Project” in the subject line, to Joseph Sparacio, Director of Strategy & External Affairs at the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE) Fund, [joseph@wacarefund.org](mailto:joseph@wacarefund.org). Required components:

1. Identify if your submission is to be considered for the role of Principal Investigator.
2. A proposed scope of work appropriate to the role you propose to fill.
3. A bid that includes:
  - a. Hourly rate
  - b. Estimated hours required to execute on the scope of work
  - c. A total (not to exceed) proposed fee
4. Resume(s), CV(s), or link to LinkedIn profile for the individual(s) who will be working on behalf of the CARE Fund under this contract, that highlight their capacity to successfully perform the functions outlined in this RFP.
5. Identify if the proposal is from a registered minority-owned, women-owned or veteran-owned Small Business?

**Submit proposals by July 29, 2022.** Questions about proposals should be directed to Joseph Sparacio, Director of Strategy & External Affairs at the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE) Fund at 206-427-8851. Finalists may be asked to submit additional materials, including references.