



ACC  
Accreditation  
Services

## 2019 QI/PI Project Funding REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

### Introduction

The American College of Cardiology's Accreditation Services' helps hospitals improve care for patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS), heart failure (HF), and atrial fibrillation (AF), and we believe this is best accomplished by using quality and process improvement scientific methods.

In an effort to support cardiovascular quality and performance improvements, the ACC provides funding opportunities that support future cardiovascular quality initiatives (QI) or performance improvement (PI), particularly those that highlight the importance of accreditation. Funding to support these projects is made possible by the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care (SCPC), which was a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the care and outcomes of patients worldwide with suspected acute coronary syndrome, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation through innovative cross-disciplinary processes. Its merger with the American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF) in 2016 provided an opportunity to leverage the accreditation strength of the SCPC into the large portfolio of services the ACCF offers. To preserve the legacy of the SCPC, an endowment was created to support future cardiovascular quality initiatives (QI) or performance improvement (PI), particularly those that highlighted the importance of accreditation.

Focus areas of desired projects or proposals include those that support cardiovascular quality improvement of cardiovascular care and patient outcomes that:

- contribute to the evidence base for accreditation
- develop or evaluate cardiovascular quality initiatives that strengthen the accreditation process
- provide opportunities for education that support quality or performance improvement projects
- improve EMS systems of care in collaboration with community hospitals providing accreditation services
- provide public health education to improve community measures/outcomes related to early recognition of heart attack symptoms and appropriate action steps

Example projects include those that:

- Support scholarly or creative work that further the principles of cardiovascular patient care performance improvement using ACC accreditation data
- Convene educational symposia

- Sponsor lectures
- Advance cardiovascular care
- Establish heart safe communities to promote Early Heart Attack Care
- Fund low performing hospitals and or critical access hospitals that seek ACC accreditation.

This Request for Proposal aims to solicit projects that will meet one or more of these focus areas.

The scope of proposed projects will be determined by the ACCs Accreditation Foundation Board and may vary from year to year. In general, proposed projects will be expected to be completed within 12 months of award notification, unless otherwise explicitly stated in the posted request for proposals.

### **Application Instructions**

Individuals or groups may submit applications for up to \$100,000 per proposal. Funds will be paid only to United States-based healthcare organizations.

Submission in electronic format is required. Please send the completed application to [accreditationrfp@acc.org](mailto:accreditationrfp@acc.org). Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Friday, May 31, 2019. Incomplete proposals or those received after the deadline will not be considered.

### **Step 1 – Submit a proposal for funding**

Use English only and avoid jargon and unusual abbreviations. For terms not universally known, spell out the term the first time it is used with the appropriate abbreviation in parentheses; the abbreviation may be used thereafter. The application requirements include:

- 12 Point Font
- Single-spaced
- One inch margins

The application consists of the following sections:

#### **A. Title Page**

Include the name of the project leader, which is one person who is responsible to the applicant organization for the scientific and technical direction of the project; also, include the project leader's organization name, physical and email address, and phone number. Choose a title that is descriptive and specifically appropriate, rather than general. (See attachment A)

#### **B. Abstract (limit 1 page)**

Provide a summary of the proposal. Include rationale, project question(s), specific aims, and

significance.

## **C. Table of Contents**

## **D. Proposal** (limit 6 pages)

Please use the following subheadings:

### ***Specific Aims***

- State concisely the goals of the proposed project and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results will exert on the focus area being addressed.
- List succinctly the specific objectives of the proposal, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel QI/PI design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to clinical performance, systems development, education, dissemination of evidence, or accreditation.

### ***Significance***

- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the focus area that the proposed project addresses.
- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad focus areas.
- Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventive interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

### ***Innovation***

- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current design, operations, research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

### ***Approach***

- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, outcomes/endpoints, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work.
- Include information on preliminary studies, data, and or experience pertinent to this application. Preliminary data can be an essential part of an application and help to

establish the likelihood of success of the proposed project.

**E. Role of Participants** (limit 1 page)

List each project participant. Include a brief description of how and to what extent each will be involved in the proposed project.

**F. Biographical Sketch, CV or Resume**

Information is requested for all participants involved with the project. The Biographical sketch, CV or Resume is limited to three pages.

**G. Resources and Environment**

Describe the facilities where the project will be conducted.

**H. Budget**

Indicate how the money will be spent. Provide a narrative justification for all direct expenditures and a timeline for project activities. Accreditation Foundation Board awards will not pay indirect costs.

**I. Human Subjects**

If your project entails performing research involving human subjects, a part of the peer review process will include careful consideration of protections from research risks, as well as the appropriate inclusion of women and minorities. The information on the protection of human subjects that you are required to provide in this section is identical to information that you will be required to provide for IRB submission at your own institution and that is required by most Federal agencies. This information can be copied and pasted directly into your application. The applicant should include specific measures on how protected health information (as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services) will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

**Publications**

All discoveries resulting from this work should be made available to the public and scientific community through approved scientific channels such as national meetings and peer reviewed publications. Publications will acknowledge the support of the Accreditation Foundation Board. Appropriate recognition to the Accreditation Foundation Board also should be given in any and all advertising, printed materials, etc. It is expected that any new QI/PI tools or strategies that are developed, will be made available to the broader healthcare community. Any results, data, or materials that are developed during the course of funded projects may be used to support ongoing Accreditation Foundation Board or Accreditation Services activities.

## **Progress Reports and Funding Distribution**

Awardees are required to submit a 6-month progress report and a final progress report within thirty days of the conclusion of the award year. For projects of 6 months or less duration, only a final progress report will be required. Progress reports must include an accounting report using Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures showing the distribution of funds with a signature from an institutional official.

The first payment installment, 50% of the total amount awarded, will be paid at the time of commencement of the study project. The second payment of 25% will be made upon receipt and approval of the 6-month progress report. The final 25% will be paid upon documentation of completion of the project and submission of the final progress report. For projects of 6 months or less duration, the first payment installment will be 50% of the total awarded amount and the remaining 50% will be paid upon submission of the final progress report. Unused funds must be returned.

## **Presentation of Work**

Grant awardees are required to present their work at the annual ACC Quality Summit, or another ACC-sponsored meeting as designated by the Accreditation Foundation Board, immediately following the completion of the award year. Funds can be requested in the project budget to cover the travel costs to attend the required meeting.

## **Project Duration**

Projects must be completed within twelve (12) months from the signing of the funding contract unless a specific condition exists that would warrant an exception. If an extension is required, the individual grantee must file for an extension and receive approval from the Accreditation Foundation Board. No additional funds will be provided for such an extension.

## **Conflict of Interest**

The Accreditation Foundation Board members will serve as the selection committee for the proposals. As such they are not eligible to submit project proposals, but they may serve as uncompensated advisors to projects led by others. Applications that include participation of Accreditation Foundation Board members must be clearly identified. Those participants will be recused from the evaluation and selection process. Other potential conflicts of interests with other organizations or companies should be identified in the application.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

The Accreditation Foundation Board will serve as the selection committee and will evaluate the merits of each proposal and recommend the projects to be funded. The committee seeks

proposals that are well conceived and demonstrate sound methodology:

- Present a project design and methodology that can answer the proposed questions.
- Demonstrate that the project team is knowledgeable on the topic and qualified to complete a high-quality project.
- Include matched funds or in-kind contributions to strengthen the feasibility of conducting the project and completing it within the contracted time line.
- Support operational improvements, patients care and safety, and efficiency in cardiovascular care.

Attachment A

**Title Page Outline**

Date

Principal Investigator

Name of Institution

Project Title

Email Address

Telephone

Funding Amount Requested