

MProve research innovation challenge - request for proposals

Overview

The Michigan Program on Value Enhancement (MPrOVE), directed by Eve Kerr, MD, MPH, is a multi-pronged strategic initiative supported by the Michigan Medicine Quality Department and the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation (IHPI). MPrOVE brings together leaders at IHPI and across Michigan Medicine to identify, implement and evaluate specific projects focused on improving value and quality of care at Michigan Medicine, while at the same time catalyzing collaborative research efforts that can ultimately inform state and national policy decisions.

To support these goals, IHPI and MPrOVE are excited to announce the launch of the **MPrOVE Research Innovation Challenge**. The Challenge is a new program that will provide planning funds to drive team science by encouraging the development of interdisciplinary research projects focused on optimizing value in healthcare, in order to advance the quality of healthcare, reduce costs, and improve patient outcomes.

Through the Challenge, MPrOVE will provide planning funds to support the preliminary research, planning, and submission of collaborative grant proposals that aim to improve appropriateness and cost of care, and patient outcomes and experiences.

Award recipients will be expected to submit a collaborative large-scale grant proposal for external funding (R, P, U or equivalent) within 18 months of receiving the funds. K Awards are not an eligible follow-on funding source.

Two Research Challenge applications will be selected to receive:

- Up to \$75,000 in planning funds;
- In-kind resources from IHPI including project management and grant development support, as well as access to data sets and data analysis to help develop the grant proposal;
- Innovation consulting and coaching from Fast Forward Medical Innovation (FFMI).



Research Themes

Last summer, two "Choosing Wisely" working groups comprised of IHPI faculty identified the following high level themes for further interdisciplinary exploration:

- 1. Reducing unnecessary use of testing and procedures to minimize costs (financial and emotional) for patients and the healthcare system.
- 2. Using technology and data (mobile health, big data, etc.) to decrease healthcare costs, improve value, and increase access to care.
- 3. Shifting care away from high-cost settings (inpatient, ED, etc.) in order to consistently deliver the right care for the right patient in the right setting.
- 4. Decreasing unnecessary use of treatments and medications in order to avoid care that may be harmful or is unlikely to lead to better patient outcomes and health.

Investigation within these themes is encouraged, however Research Challenge applications can also address other relevant areas of research. Ultimately, the future grant submission for external funding should feature innovative approaches, including patient engagement, that will lead to subsequent advances in quality of care and reductions in low-value care.

Application Process Overview

- September 27: Kick-Off Event 12:30 4:30 pm, NCRC Building 18 Dining Hall.
- **November 3:** Research Challenge application deadline.
- **November 20:** Internal leadership team will identify top 3–5 proposals, and notify these teams.
- **December 7:** External review committee will hear presentations from top 3–5 project teams.
- **December 21:** Two Research Challenge teams will be selected to receive planning funds for development of large-scale grant proposals.

Eligibility

All research teams must include at least one IHPI faculty member who attended the September 27 Kick-Off event. We expect that successful teams will have members from **at least two schools/colleges** at the University of Michigan.

Partnerships with operational units at Michigan Medicine, and with faculty and/or leadership from external organizations, are encouraged but not required.



Application Submission Procedure and Due Date

Applications must be submitted online via **Competition Space** and are due no later than **November 3, 2017 at 5pm**. Submissions received after that date and time will not be accepted.

Finalists will be notified by November 20th and will present to the external review committee on December 7, 2017. Awardees will be notified no later than December 21st.

Award Selection Criteria

Research Challenge applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Innovation of research ideas focused on value;
- Synergy of multidisciplinary team members from across IHPI and University of Michigan;
- Feasibility of a large-scale grant proposal submission at the end of the planning grant period (up to 18 months);
- Potential for external funding success.

Use of Funds

Up to \$75,000 in direct-cost funding will be awarded on a one-time basis, beginning January 1, 2018. The final award amount will be appropriate to the scale of the planning grant activities and intended follow-on external funding. The funds must be spent during the specified timeframe for conducting the preliminary research, carrying out the planning activities, and preparing the grant proposal for submission (within 18 months). Funds may be spent only on the planning and related activities leading to the external grant submission. No-cost extensions will be considered on an individual basis, and will depend on documented progress in the planning grant plan.

Allowable costs include relevant research equipment, data purchases, office supplies, staff/graduate student support, development of tools, and travel connected with planning the external grant submission. Unallowable costs include cost over-runs, retroactive funding, publications, unrelated equipment, or travel unconnected to the conduct of the specific funded planning grant. The inclusion of faculty salary support will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with no more than 20% faculty salary support allowed in any case.

Cost sharing from the units involved, while not required, is encouraged. Please identify direct cost-sharing support along with "in-kind" contributions. Salary support can be provided by the principal investigator's unit as part of the cost-sharing effort.



The above list of allowable/unallowable costs may not be all-inclusive, and applicants are encouraged to send an email inquiry to Emma Steppe (emsteppe@umich.edu) if they have questions about the use of funds.

Research Challenge funds will be transferred to an account designated by the principal investigator's administrative home unit. The unit and the PI are responsible for all cost over-runs. A final financial report must be submitted to IHPI within 6 months of submitting a proposal for external funding. All planning work is expected to be completed within 18 months. Unspent dollars will be returned to IHPI.

Awardee Expectations

Award recipients will submit semi-annual progress/status reports at 6, 12, and 18 months. Award recipient teams will have regular meetings with IHPI Strategic Initiatives Project Manager Emma Steppe or designee, to ensure that milestones are being met. Finally, award recipients will submit a collaborative grant proposal for external funding (R, P, U or equivalent) within 18 months of receiving the Research Challenge planning funds. K Awards are not eligible follow-on funding sources.

Application Components

The application should be a single-spaced document (Arial 11, minimum of 0.5-inch margins) describing the proposed project concisely and completely. Please use the following overall format; page limits are indicated.

Key Definitions:

Research Challenge application: the application, detailed later in this RFP, to receive planning funds from the MPrOVE Research Innovation Challenge to support the future submission of a large-scale grant proposal.

Planning Grant: the planning and preliminary research activities that you intend to use the **planning funds** to implement, resulting in the future submission of a large-scale grant proposal. You will outline your planning grant in the Research Challenge application.

Large-scale grant proposal/Future grant submission: the research proposal you will submit for external funding (R, P, U or equivalent) by the end of the 18-month planning period. The planning funds are intended to support the planning and development of this future grant submission.



Application Format

The application should be a single-spaced document (Arial 11, minimum of 0.5 inch margins) describing the project concisely and completely. Please use the following overall format. Page limits are indicated.

- 1. Cover Page (1 page limit): Indicate the names and rationale for the key investigators (principal and co-investigators), all additional team members (including TBA staff or key personnel needed), and their primary academic units. Indicate what unit will serve as the administrative and financial home for the planning grant. Also indicate the external funding source(s) and type of grant (e.g., R, U, P) anticipated for the future grant submission. If the future funding source is not firmly determined, indicate potential sources.
- 2. Abstract (1 page limit): Include an abstract of the proposed research, and grant proposal submission planning activities, that clearly describes the background and significance, focusing on the gaps the research project is intended to fill; the proposed approach for the planning grant period, including research methods and other planning activities; and the expected innovation and impact of the externally funded research project.
- 3. Research Plan (5 page limit; suggested section lengths are listed below)
 - **A. Background and Significance (0.5 1 page)**: Explain 1) importance of the problem, 2) state of existing knowledge, including research by the current team, 3) rationale for the proposed planning grant and research, 4) gaps the research is intended to fill, to increase the viability of receiving external funding, and 5) how the contributions of the proposed large-scale research will improve value of care in the healthcare system.
 - **B. Planning Grant and Future Grant Proposal Submission Aims (0.5 page):** First, list or describe the main anticipated aims/goals of the future large-scale grant submission at a high level. Next, list or describe the specific main goals or aims of the planning grant period that will lay the foundation for a large-scale grant submission, including aims of the research and collaborative planning activities.
 - **C. Approach (1.5 pages):** Include a description of the preliminary activities needed for development of the large-scale grant proposal. This should include the methods for any preliminary research (e.g., secondary data analysis, primary data collection, pilot intervention, etc.): the population, site and setting of the research, data sources required, and analytic approaches. Additionally, the description should include other collaborative or grant development activities that need to take place prior to the large-scale grant submission. Examples include: developing research team, including recruiting key personnel; building internal and external relationships; convening stakeholders; and developing research tools.



- **D. Innovation and Impact (0.5 page):** Explain how the proposed future research project challenges and seeks to produce sustainable changes in one or more of the MPrOVE Research Innovation Challenge themes. Describe how the research results will impact patients, providers, and the healthcare system. Describe any potential products or tools that will result from this research, including if the solution will result in any protectable intellectual property.
- **E. Timeline (0.5-1 page):** Describe how you envision your work leading from receipt of planning funds to submission of a large-scale grant proposal within 18 months, including milestones at six-month intervals. Include how the research team will be organized (e.g., working all together, separated into smaller workgroups) in order to fulfill the goals of the planning grant.
- **4. References:** Not included in the page limit. Use one of the standard citation formats. Limit references to no more than 2 pages.
- **5. Budget/Use of funds:** Awardees will receive up to \$75,000 in direct costs on a one-time basis, appropriate to the scale of the planning grant activities and intended follow-on external funding. Outline the proposed use of planning grant funds. There are no indirect costs allocated to these projects. Please follow all rules regarding allowable and unallowable costs found listed in the Use of Funds section.
- **6. Current/Pending Support:** Include an <u>NIH-format biosketch</u>, including current and pending support related to other research efforts, for all key personnel (principal and co-investigators). Indicate if there is overlap of funding between current sources of funds and the proposed project.

Questions

If you have questions about the MPrOVE Research Innovation Challenge, please contact Emma Steppe at **emsteppe@umich.edu**.