

Navigation Capacity-Building Initiative Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA)

I. Background and Program Overview

The American Cancer Society is pleased to announce a new, multi-year competitive grant opportunity focused on advancing high-quality cancer care through capacity building and support for sustainable models of oncology patient navigation. The granting period is July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) is a global grassroots force of 1.5 million volunteers dedicated to saving lives, celebrating lives, and leading the fight for a world without cancer. From breakthrough research, free lodging near treatment centers, a 24/7/365 live helpline, free rides to treatment, and convening powerful activists to create awareness and impact, the Society is the only organization attacking cancer from every angle. For more information about the American Cancer Society, visit www.cancer.org.

The ACS Navigation Capacity-Building Initiative Grant Program is a component of the Society's commitment to enhancing oncology patient navigation and addressing barriers to individualized, timely, and equitable access to care for cancer patients and their families. Key features of this novel program include:

- **Financial resources and capacity-building support** for grantees to enhance institutional oncology patient navigation processes, policies and systems and address barriers, gaps, and challenges for patients, especially those from populations traditionally excluded. Resources and support are intended to build upon and improve existing navigation strategies through quality improvement approaches and innovative strategies rather than create new navigation programs. Projects are expected to include a planning phase (up to six months of support) and implementation phase (two years of support) to maximize impact and plan for long-term sustainability.
- **A multi-institutional learning community** convened by ACS to provide a platform for grantees to share best practices, lessons learned, and access training and expertise. Learning community advisors will include members of the American Cancer Society Patient Support Advisory Council, the National Navigation Roundtable (convened by ACS), researchers, and subject-matter experts in the field of oncology navigation.
- **Comprehensive evaluation and data sharing** of process and outcome measurements to assess the impact of grantee navigation improvement strategies. Selected Project metrics, such as the Standardized Evidence-Based Oncology Navigation Metrics developed by the Academy of Oncology Nurse and Patient Navigators (AONN+) and validated in the 2020 ACS and AONN+ Navigation Metrics Toolkit, will be monitored through the learning community and grantee support. These data will be harmonized and analyzed with the intent to share with the larger oncology community and support the development of future programs and policy objectives.

II. Program Eligibility

Geographic Scope	United States and U.S. Territories
Applicant Eligibility Criteria	• National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer program and/or Commission on Cancer (CoC) accredited program • Minimum annual analytical oncology caseload of 1,000 OR CoC accredited Safety Net Hospital with a smaller analytical caseload • At least 25% of the health system's patient population is Uninsured, on Medicaid, or are classified as Medicare only (UOMM)

III. Requirements

Area of Interest for this RFA	The goal of this initiative is to advance high-quality cancer care through capacity building and support for innovative, sustainable models of oncology patient navigation. The intent of the grant project is to support proposals focused on patient navigation among individuals with a cancer diagnosis. Navigating patients without a cancer diagnosis (e.g. screening navigation) is considered out of scope for this RFA. It is expected that health systems applying for funding demonstrate how they will build upon existing navigation strategies in their cancer program, as well as a commitment to health equity. Health systems should also have a strong understanding of patient navigation. Projects should address a significant gap or challenge related to oncology patient navigation. During review of applications, the population of focus and intended outcome(s) of the project will be given careful consideration, and projects with the maximum likelihood for advancing high-quality cancer care through innovation and those that may be scaled or replicated will be given highest priority. All grantees will be expected to participate in a learning community convened by American Cancer Society staff. All grantees are expected to convene or leverage an existing patient or community advisory group to provide input during the project. Grants may not support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.
Target Audience	Cancer patients representing under-resourced populations (Uninsured, on Medicaid, Medicare only coverage, as well as minority racial and ethnic populations)
Gaps in Care and Barriers	Navigating cancer patients and their caregivers is critical for achieving positive health outcomes, particularly for patients who have limited access

	to resources, are people of color, and reside in areas with barriers to accessing quality cancer care. The ACS is committed to providing support and capacity development to health systems to invest in navigation programs that address barriers to care for under-resourced populations.
Funding Amount	Proposed projects may request up to \$300,000 for the 30-month project period, including 10% indirect costs. The total available budget related to this RFP is \$3,900,000. Up to thirteen health system grants will be awarded (at least two per each of the six ACS Regions).
Key Dates	RFA release date: February 7, 2022 LOI due date: March 7, 2022 <i>Please note the deadline is 11:59 pm Eastern Time (New York, GMT -5)</i> Anticipated LOI Notification Date: April 4, 2022 Full Proposal Deadline: May 13, 2022 <i>Only accepted LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals</i> <i>Please note the deadline is 11:59 pm Eastern Time (New York, GMT -5)</i> Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: June 15, 2022 Grant funding distributed following execution of a fully signed Letter of Agreement Anticipated Period of Performance: July 2022 to December 2024 (projects may be shorter but not longer than 30 months)
How to Submit	The Letter of Intent should be submitted via email as a single document (e.g. Word, pdf) to: navigation@cancer.org
Questions	Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions For additional questions regarding this RFA, please direct them in writing to navigation@cancer.org
Mechanism by Which Applicants Will Be Notified	All applicants will be notified via email by the dates noted above.

V. Letter of Intent Requirements

The Letter of Intent (LOI) will be accepted via the instructions listed above. LOIs should be succinct and responses to the following questions should not **exceed 5 (five) pages**. The page limit does not include title page or references, but should include the following:

Goals and Objectives	- Briefly state the overall goal of the project and how it aligns with the focus of the RFA. - Briefly describe how the project builds upon existing navigation strategies.
Assessment of Need	Describe how the proposed project addresses significant gaps or challenges related to patient navigation in your oncology program.
Target Audience	Describe the target patient population for this project. Describe the overall population size, including the number patients you anticipate will be impacted during your project.
Project Design and Methods	Generally describe the project objectives, approach, and key deliverables
Innovation	Describe how this project builds upon existing work, pilot projects, or ongoing projects developed either by your institution or other institutions related to this project.
Evaluation and Outcomes	Core metrics will be required for this project. Please briefly describe how you expect to collect and analyze the required metrics. <i>Note – No additional data or information is required for the LOI.</i>
Anticipated Project Timeline	Provide an anticipated timeline including project start/end dates
Organization and Partnership Detail	- Indicate how your health system meets the Applicant Eligibility Criteria in section 2 (e.g. NCI, CoC, analytical oncology caseload, %UOMM) - Describe how your institution has demonstrated commitment to oncology patient navigation, particularly addressing disparities in cancer outcomes and promoting health equity.
Budget Detail	- A total amount requested is the only information needed for the LOI stage. Full Budget is not required. This amount can be adjusted at the Full Proposal stage, as applicable. - Budget Guidance (Total of \$300,000 may be requested): - Planning & Implementation (July-Dec. 2022) – \$70,000 - Implementation (Jan. 2023-Dec. 2024 - \$100,000/year) - \$200,000 - Overhead/indirect (max. of 10%) - \$30,000