

Pipeline to Proposal Program: Strengthening the Research Enterprise by Building a
PCOR Community

Courtney Clyatt ,Melanie Thompson, Suzanne Schrandt

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) was created in 2010 and tasked with funding high-impact clinical research that engages patients and other stakeholders throughout the entire study process. To receive PCORI funding, researchers who apply must demonstrate how patients and other stakeholders have been and will be involved in the proposed research study. While these engagement requirements represent an exciting shift in the funding paradigm, a 2012 patient engagement workshop hosted by PCORI revealed a critical gap. At that conference, patient advocates shared that the PCORI's funding model depended on researchers extending invitations to patients and stakeholders to participate in the research process. What might result, they asked, if the funding opportunity was flipped and patients and stakeholders were in the position to invite researchers to the table? Based on that suggestion, PCORI's Pipeline to Proposal Program (P2P) was formed. A three-tiered funding program employing significant training and technical assistance, the P2P program aims to generate high-quality, fully-engaged research proposals that can be submitted to PCORI or other funders of engaged research. To ensure appropriate bandwidth, PCORI contracts with five regional Pipeline Award Program Offices to provide on-the-ground assistance, guidance, and in some cases fiscal intermediary duties to the P2P awardees. To date 121 awards have been contracted through this program and data will be presented on how the program has succeeded in forming critical research partnerships and developing research capacity among researchers, patients and stakeholder partners.