



Making a Difference in Real-World Bioethics Dilemmas **Spring 2018**

The Greenwall Foundation is requesting proposals for the Spring 2018 cycle of its bioethics grants program, **Making a Difference in Real-World Bioethics Dilemmas**, to support research to help resolve an important emerging or unanswered bioethics problem in clinical care, biomedical research, public health practice, or public policy. Our aim is to fund innovative projects that will have a **real-world, practical impact**. Letters of intent are due **January 8, 2018** by 11:59 pm ET, for projects to begin on or after **July 1, 2018**.

Priority for funding will be given to **collaborative projects** involving a bioethics scholar and persons with on-the-ground experience in organizations where bioethics dilemmas arise, for example, in clinical care; biomedical research; biotechnology, pharmaceutical, big data, and artificial intelligence companies; or public service. Such collaboration can identify specific bioethics problems that clinicians, researchers, policymakers, public health officials, and others face in their daily work, and facilitate practical resolutions. Reviewers will be looking for evidence of a history of collaborative research and a strong collaborative plan. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to engage with relevant lay or community stakeholders throughout their project.

While we welcome all innovative proposals that will have a real-world impact, we are particularly interested in proposals that address the **ethical** and policy issues raised by following **priority topics**:

- **Developments in artificial intelligence**. Collaborations addressing this topic might involve a bioethics scholar and, for example, a leading computer scientist applying artificial intelligence to clinical decisions.
- **Responses to the opioid epidemic**. Collaborations addressing this topic might involve a bioethics scholar and, for example, a substance abuse care provider, the leader of a community organization working with substance abusers, or representatives of families affected by substance abuse.
- **Bias and discrimination in clinical care** against patients or clinicians, based on a broad range of characteristics. Collaborations addressing this topic might involve a bioethics scholar and, for example, clinicians, leaders of a healthcare organization, or patient advocacy groups.
- **Advances in biomedical and clinical research and their translation into clinical practice**. Collaborations addressing this topic might involve a bioethics scholar and, for example, a biomedical/clinical researcher or clinician.
- **Healthcare access, costs, and resource allocation**. Collaborations addressing this priority topic might involve a bioethics scholar and, for example, a leader in an organization that provides or pays for care.

Proposals for projects that address other real-world, practical bioethics problems are also welcome.

Projects may be empirical, conceptual, or normative. All proposals should explain how they will help address a real-world bioethics dilemma, especially conceptual proposals. Projects to analyze the normative implications of already-completed empirical research are encouraged. The Foundation will support mentored projects in which a postdoctoral fellow or junior faculty member works closely with an experienced bioethics scholar. The Foundation will also consider pilot or feasibility projects to evaluate an innovative intervention to resolve a bioethics dilemma, with the goal of obtaining funding from other sources for a larger evaluation or demonstration project. Some highly promising projects may be funded for an initial phase, with additional funding contingent on achieving clear milestones.

We expect grantees to disseminate their research through practical articles in peer-reviewed journals that reach the appropriate audience for the topic studied, through presentations in relevant professional meetings, and in other ways that will increase real-world impact. Applicants should describe, for example, how they will disseminate their results beyond academic audiences, such as to lay and community groups or to leaders of institutions who could implement the project's recommendations or act upon empirical findings (e.g., leaders of clinical services, research programs, institutional review boards, or medical education).

In evaluating proposals, the Foundation will consider:

- The real-world importance of the bioethics problem to be studied and the likelihood the project will have a constructive real-world impact. Importantly, projects that aim to impact public policy should **not** constitute advocacy projects with predetermined conclusions.
- The innovative nature of the project's approach and how it goes beyond previous work on the issue.
- The appropriateness and rigor of the methods, analysis plan, strategy, and approach.
- The appropriateness and inclusiveness of the project's planned approach to dissemination and implementation, including how stakeholder audiences beyond academia will be targeted and include key individuals who can change practice or policy.
- The professional background of the team of investigators, and their close, practical familiarity with the bioethics problems to be addressed.
- The previous success of the proposed investigators in carrying out similar projects. Young investigators who have not previously published results from a bioethics project are advised to apply with a mentor that actively collaborates in all phases of the project.
- The success of the investigators in publishing practical bioethics articles, similar to what is proposed, in top-tier journals with a broad audience, and in otherwise disseminating the results of their research to relevant stakeholders.
- The value added by interdisciplinary collaboration, as discussed above.
- The reasonableness of the budget, including the amount and duration of funding requested. All things being equal, projects with smaller budgets will receive priority.

The Greenwall Foundation will fund 10% indirect costs to the grantee institution for salary and benefits only. Salaries for investigators are capped at 1.5x the current NIH cap for the basis of the percent effort allocation and fringe rates will be capped at 35%.

Projects with the following characteristics will **not** be funded under this program:

- Projects for which bioethics is not the main focus.
- Projects that implement or make incremental improvements in established approaches to bioethics problems, build institutional infrastructure, or provide bioethics education, training, or coursework.
- Projects that simply describe or analyze bioethics issues or provide a conceptual framework, without making practical recommendations for resolving the issues.
- Projects that have predetermined conclusions or advocate for predetermined positions.
- Projects whose main goal is to convene or enhance a meeting, unless there is a well-developed plan to produce a peer-reviewed publication with consensus recommendations, guidelines, or best practices with a strong likelihood of real-world implementation. The applicant must have a strong record in convening successful meetings.
- Projects to support or extend ongoing or core activities of an organization.
- Projects with a principal investigator who does not have a PhD, JD, MD, or an equivalent doctoral-level degree.
- Applications from unaffiliated individuals, or from institutions that do not have tax-exempt status in the United States.

Working with The Greenwall Foundation is a **collaborative process**. Our goal is to work with applicants to develop strong proposals that are positioned to have the greatest impact in real-world, practical settings. Experienced bioethics researchers serve as peer reviewers. After reviewing letters of intent, reviewers typically provide **specific feedback and suggestions for consideration** along with invitations to submit full proposals. Through this feedback, the Foundation seeks to assist applicants in presenting the best possible proposals and to ensure that their research interests align with the Foundation's funding priorities. After review of full proposals, the Foundation may request additional clarifications, for example, about the adequacy of human subjects protections or the project's budget. Officers and staff of the Foundation do not vote in the review process.

In addition to grants awarded in response to this RFP, The Greenwall Foundation may directly initiate some grants.

For instructions on how to apply, please [follow this link](#). Please e-mail inquiries about this program to admin@greenwall.org.

Application Process: Spring 2018

Application Timeline

Letters of Intent due by January 8, 2018, 11:59 p.m. ET

Invited Full Proposals due by March 8, 2018, 11:59 p.m. ET

Invitations to submit full proposals may contain suggestions from reviewers for strengthening the application, and reviewers may request additional clarifications after full proposals are received. Working with The Greenwall Foundation is a collaborative process. Our goal is to work with applicants to develop strong proposals that are positioned to have the greatest impact in real-world, practical settings.

Projects to commence on or after July 1, 2018

Directions for Submitting a Letter of Intent

Go to <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=greenwall>. Once there, please bookmark the site, create an account, and complete your application. Please note, The Greenwall Foundation updated its online grants management system in June 2017. If you applied for a grant with the Foundation before that time, you will need to create a new account for this new system.

If you have any technical questions or concerns regarding the online application process, please contact support@foundant.com. If you continue to experience difficulty with the online application process, please contact us by email at admin@greenwall.org or phone at 212-679-7266 during business hours (Eastern Time). We will **not accept late applications because of technical issues** with the online application portal, so please try logging in and entering your information in advance of the deadline.

Letters of intent require the following information be entered into our online application from:

- Project title
- A one-sentence summary of the project for a lay audience
- Priority topic, if any
- The amount and duration of funding requested (salaries for investigators are capped at 1.5x the current NIH cap for the basis of the percent effort allocation and fringe rates will be capped at 35%; The Greenwall Foundation will fund 10% indirect costs to the grantee institution for salary and benefits only)
- Names of the proposed research team and copies of CVs for two key personnel (no more than 5 single-spaced pages each, in NIH biosketch format) that highlight evidence that you have the experience and expertise needed to carry out the proposed project
- A narrative using the following headers:
 - The bioethics problem to be addressed and its significance
 - The specific aims or research questions of the project
 - How the proposed project is innovative and goes beyond the current work on the

- problem, particularly in its potential to have a real-world impact
- Collaborative nature of the project (if applicable), including investigators' history of collaborative research and collaborative plan
- The nature of peer-reviewed publication(s) expected from the project and other plans to disseminate the project's findings, including to stakeholder audiences beyond academia and to key individuals who can change practice or policy

This narrative should be no longer than 3 single-spaced pages plus references (which do not count against the 3-page limit), with one-inch margins and in font no smaller than 12 point. Please do not submit any additional documents.

Letters of intent for this cycle must be submitted [online](#) by January 8, 2018 at 11:59 p.m.

ET. We **strongly** encourage applicants to submit letters of intent earlier, so that they have time to correct any technical errors that might arise during the application process. Invited full applications will be due March 8, 2018, with project periods to start on or after July 1, 2018. Because of the relatively tight deadline for full proposals that include financial information approved by an appropriate officer, there may be some allowance for budget deadlines. However, priority will be given to fully completed proposals.

We will fund another cycle of grants in Fall 2018. The request for proposals and due date for this cycle will be announced in Summer 2018.