The Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE) Fund was established by the Washington State Legislature in 2015 to promote cancer research in our state (RCW Chapter 43.348).

The legislation is authorized to appropriate funds each biennium to the CARE Fund to make grants to promote cancer research in Washington state. The Fund's objectives as enumerated by the Revised Code of Washington include the following:

- Optimize the use of public funds by giving priority to research utilizing the best science and technology with the greatest potential to improve health outcomes
- Increase the value of our public investments by leveraging our state's existing cancer research facilities and talent, as well as clinical and therapeutic resources
- Incentivize additional investment by requiring private or other nonstate resources to match public funds
- Create jobs and encourage investments that will generate new tax revenues in our state
- Advance the biotech, medical device, and health care information technology industries in Washington

The Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment (CARE) Fund is named in honor of state Senator Andy Hill who was a dedicated legislator and public champion of cancer research.

Background

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Domain 1: Capacity

Goal:
Build Washington’s capacity for cancer research, allowing for sustainability and creativity through sufficient resources, including well-directed funding and a trained, diverse workforce to ensure a diversity of thought to drive innovation.

Objectives:
- Maintain state investments in cancer research utilizing the best science and technology with the greatest potential to improve health outcomes
- Increase capacity of the cancer research workforce
- Increase leverage of public funds’ nonstate match (secured from co-funders or other sources to reduce the burden of nonstate match on applicants)
- Increase diversity of CARE Board and advisory committee(s)

Strategies:
- Engage with cancer coalitions to support planning
- Utilize cancer registry data to identify cancer incidence based on population, race and ethnicity, and catchment areas, to inform program development
- Continue or create new grant opportunities for the recruitment and start-up investigators, and mentorship of junior investigators to benefit Washington’s research capacity
- Explore launching an effort to invest in research to understand and bolster the resilience in the cancer workforce ecosystem
- Develop formal partnerships with other public funders and private funders to leverage resources, support innovative ideas, alleviate the match burden, etc.
- Board contributes to the development of a diverse list of potential nominees, that reflects the diversity of Washington and the governance needs of CARE Fund, to advance to the Governor
Domain 3: Innovation, Productivity, and Healthcare Delivery

Goal:
Support innovation and productivity that ensures a critical volume of quality candidates come out of every stage of the research and innovation process and that diversity of effort is used to improve the odds of innovative discoveries.

Objectives:
• Increase economic benefit to the state of Washington by accelerating innovation and productivity
• Accelerate improvements in healthcare delivery through more data-informed policy development

Strategies:
• Maintain nimbleness by making funds more accessible to biotech, medical device, and health information technology applicants
• Invest the Board’s care and attention when structuring Intellectual Property (IP) mechanisms for IP and technology transfers resulting from CARE Fund support
• Provide Life Science Start-Up Development Research and other grant opportunities (to be determined) that target companies and/or facilitate the creation of new companies
• Maintain CARE Fund’s ability to be responsive to emergent issues through engagement with decision-makers and stakeholders

Domain 4: Prevention, Equitable Access and Use

Goal:
Advance equitable access and use to ensure that innovation reaches all who need it when they need it, from prevention to treatment.

Objectives:
• Increase access to care, including latest discoveries
• Reduce cancer risk and increase resilience
• Provide sufficient allocation of funding opportunities to address equitable access to and use of cancer care

Strategies:
• Cultivate relationships with local community-based cohorts to better understand and address community-identified priorities
• Understand how we can frame these conversations in terms that will advance care and access while enabling research, in a feed-forward way where successful research leads to better patient outcomes, and communities with better outcomes will be stronger partners for promoting cancer research
• Invest in population health research
• Create and provide grant opportunities that support/promote research that aims to improve access to cancer care
Staff
Laura Flores Cantrell
Executive Director

Peter Choi
Director of Program Design & Evaluation

Tasha Florez
Senior Program Officer

Jennifer Puttuck
Administrative Manager

Joseph Sparacio
Deputy Director

External Advisory Committee
CARE Fund is grateful to the Strategic Planning External Advisory Committee, appointed in 2023 and made up of independent, nationally recognized experts in the scientific, clinical, ethical, commercial, and regulatory aspects of cancer research, prevention, and care to advise the endowment during the development and review of its strategic plans for cancer research.

Program Administrator
Evergreen Social Impact is the contracted program administrator for Andy Hill CARE Fund.

Timeline (2015-2023)

2015
Washington State creates bold public-private partnership for cancer research

2016
Governor appoints CARE Fund Board of Directors

2017
CARE Fund launches Distinguished Researchers Program to recruit world-class researchers to Washington

2018
CARE Fund creates Breakthrough Research Program for investments in transformational projects and scientific discoveries

2019
State revenue is dedicated to help ensure long-term success

2020
CARE Fund issues COVID-19 Response grants to fund research on the COVID-19 pandemic’s impacts on cancer patients

2021
CARE Fund launches Population Health Program to address cancer disparities among populations

2022
CARE Fund issues a Request for Information and facilitates public input on cancer research priorities in Washington

2023
CARE Fund makes an historic investment of over $30M for cancer research to improve inclusion and diversity in clinical trials, life science start-up and development, cancer research infrastructure, and population health

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*Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only.