

Announcement: Request for Proposals for 2026 Home Care Dissertation Research Funding

RFP Responses: Please send responses in electronic PDF format to jschiller@researchinstituteforhomecare.org by no later than 5 pm ET on Friday, May 1, 2026. Only complete responses will be considered.

Background: The Research Institute for Home Care (the Institute) seeks to sponsor one or more dissertation grants to help advance home care and hospice and may seek to improve care delivery at home through quality and innovation. Funding will be awarded up to \$10,000 maximum per grant. Up to three projects may be funded from this announcement.

Objectives: To further home care research as it pertains to both the current challenges facing healthcare delivery and critical areas of need in the future. Topics considered will be consistent with the Institute's mission of expanding and improving access to and delivery of health care in the home by informing policy and identifying best practices and patient care models. Projects must have focus in at least one of the following areas: home health, home-based hospice and palliative care, and/or home and community-based care. Topics given priority for funding may include in no particular order, and inclusive of any and all payer types:

- Workforce
- Rural Health
- Patient Access to Home Care
- Virtual Care
- Disease-specific Innovation

Methodology: The research project may employ a mixed methods approach, including but not limited to: interviews with thought leaders and stakeholders, case studies, surveys, secondary data analysis, and/or clinical trials.

Deliverables: Upon completion of project, the Institute requires the following deliverables:

- Final report summarizing the research, findings, and recommendations for future utilization;
- At least one article publishable in a peer-reviewed journal;
- Key recommendations for home health care providers;

- Presentation of findings to the Institute.

Qualifications: The researchers will work with the Institute's Research Work Group, which is comprised of thought leaders and researchers from the home care community, to complete the project. Researchers with the following competencies/experience are preferred:

- Defended proposal and past preliminary oral exams by the time the award is administered (required);
- Health services research;
- Qualitative research; and
- Quantitative research.

Eligible Organizations:

- Higher Education Institutions
- Public/State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- Private Institutions of Higher Education
- Nonprofits Other Than Institutions of Higher Education Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education)
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education)
- Governments and related organizations

Application Outline

Please provide the following information:

1. Specific Aims of the Study (1 page in total)
2. Research Plan: This should include a summary of the overall strategy, the methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the aims of the project. (3 pages in total)
3. Bibliography
4. A summary of your experience in or with home-based care (1 page)
5. Details of the proposed research team (including abbreviated biosketches for each person), with a clear statement of his/her intended contribution to the proposed study.
 - a. The dissertation candidate, who must be matriculated in an accredited doctoral program (see above for further eligibility), must be the designated Principal Investigator (PI). The mentor for the PI must be listed on the research team.
6. Letter of support from faculty supervising dissertation (1-2 pages)
7. Project budget with a detailed breakdown of costs.
8. **Timeline:**
 - a. **Projects will be expected to be completed within an 18 month timeframe or sooner, with a single final publishable deliverable as described above.**

- b. Researchers to be selected by July 31, 2026, and work to begin within the fourth quarter of 2026. Projects will be considered complete with the submission of final report for peer review publication (may contain one or papers depending on the scope of work), along with the rest of the above deliverables.

Contact Information: If you have any questions about this RFP, please send them to the Institute's Director of Strategic Initiatives, Jennifer Schiller, at jschiller@researchintituteforhomecare.org.