



IMPROVECARENOW™

Announcing the 2019 ImproveCareNow Parent and Patient Innovation Fund!

We know that many of the most innovative and high impact ideas for improving pediatric IBD care are likely to come from those living with the condition on a daily basis—ImproveCareNow parent and patient partners. Until now, there has not been a formal mechanism to encourage and provide support for projects proposed by these partners, though many successful ad-hoc projects have been carried out by dedicated parent and patient members of the community, so many remain just that—good ideas. Additionally, we are aware of many needs and goals of pediatric patients and their families living with IBD.

We therefore launched the “ImproveCareNow Parent and Patient Innovation Fund” to solicit proposals for innovative project ideas from parent/patient partners and to support them with financial and other resources. We funded three projects over the past two years which are described [here](#).

We are delighted to announce that one project will each be funded up to \$5000 in 2019, the third year of this fund.

New this year! We will be hosting an info session on **July 11 4pm ET / 1pm PT**. This is a great opportunity to ask questions about potential proposal ideas! [Learn more](#)

What types of projects will we fund? We invite applications for projects that support ImproveCareNow’s mission to *transform the health, care and costs for all children and adolescents with Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis*. We particularly encourage projects that will enhance and expand participation in the ImproveCareNow community. Preference will be given to projects that will be applicable to a range of ImproveCareNow centers. [Read more about ImproveCareNow.](#)

Who may apply?

- The project leader must be a patient or parent caring for someone with IBD.
- The project leader **must receive care at a participating ImproveCareNow center** and/or **participate** as an active member of the ImproveCareNow **Parent Working Group or Patient Advisory Council**. [See all ImproveCareNow Centers](#)

How do I apply?

[Contact us](#) for an application

Email completed application to: Chris Keck, christian.keck@cchmc.org

When is the application due? August 2nd, 2019

What will the funds cover? Funds will cover expenses that include (but are not limited to) materials, travel, copying, and printing expenses as allowed by Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center guidelines. The guidelines will be provided to the awardees; ImproveCareNow project staff will work with awardees to ensure the use of funds meet these guidelines.

What won’t the funds cover? At this time, we are not able to cover project members’ time or salary using these funds.

When will we announce selected projects? On or about September 22nd, 2019.

How will ImproveCareNow select projects for funding? Proposals will be reviewed by a community panel (including clinicians, parents, patients, and ICN leadership) using criteria aimed at assessing alignment with community goals, potential impact, and appropriate scale and scope for the funding provided. Following this review, phone discussions with the leaders of promising projects will take place to gather additional information.

What Additional Support is Available for Funded Projects? Funded projects will receive clinician or improvement expert mentoring, project management support, and ongoing feedback from Network leaders and faculty. There will be periodic progress reviews by the ImproveCareNow team to ensure that projects are meeting intended timelines and milestones.

How will ImproveCareNow use what we produce? ImproveCareNow will work with the project team to determine the best way to spread and promote the project to the entire community. This may include presentations at ImproveCareNow Community Conferences or webinars and opportunities to further spread your work via our innovation and quality improvement structure.

Will all applications receive feedback? Yes, we will provide feedback to all submitted applications, including suggestions for having a stronger application next time and/or seeking different resources to launch the project.

Who should I contact if I have questions? Please contact Chris Keck, Engagement Campaign Director, at christian.keck@cchmc.org. We will also be hosting an info session on **July 11 4PM ET/1PM PT**. [Learn more](#)