



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Investments in Comparative Effectiveness Research for Evidence Synthesis

The Need: Increased Knowledge Base

Comparative effectiveness research informs patients, providers, and decisionmakers on which interventions are most effective for which patients under specific circumstances. To provide this information, comparative effectiveness research must assess a comprehensive array of health-related outcomes for diverse patient populations for interventions, including medications, procedures, medical and assistive devices and technologies, behavioral change strategies, and delivery systems.

The Solution: Evidence Synthesis

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ's) investments using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funds will expand the Agency's Effective Health Care Program. This program supports research activities that use rigorous scientific methods within an established process that emphasizes stakeholder involvement and transparency. Working with lists of priority topics developed within the Effective Health Care Program, topics generated through the increased horizon scanning and priority setting efforts and other lists of priority topics (such as those to be recommended by the Institute of Medicine through its project on Priority Setting for Comparative Effectiveness Research), AHRQ will use Recovery Act funds to increase support for comparative effectiveness reviews.

The goal of this effort will be to increase the number of comparative effectiveness reviews conducted through AHRQ's Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) Program, thereby increasing the information base of research synthesis available to support decisions in clinical and other health care decision settings. The EPCs are 14 institutions that critically examine existing scientific evidence on a clinical topic and summarize what is known and not known from the current science base.

Funding Method: 8 task orders, competed among existing U.S. EPCs, ranging from \$2 to \$4 million each

Project Duration: 3 years

Funding Amount: \$25 million

Information on contract solicitations can be found at www.fbo.gov.