

THE HOPE FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

SWOG / Hope Foundation VA Storefront Support Program

Request for Applications

SWOG Cancer Research Network's mission is to significantly improve lives through cancer clinical trials and translational research. SWOG is a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-supported network of cancer researchers in the United States, Canada, and beyond, and is part of the NCI National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) and NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP). Additional research, infrastructure, and educational support is provided by SWOG's non-profit arm, The Hope Foundation for Cancer Research.

SWOG is committed to providing patients within the VA Health Administration system access to cutting edge cancer clinical trials and treatments throughout the NCTN/NCORP.

Awards from the SWOG/Hope Foundation VA Storefront Support Program provide funding for Veterans Health Administration Medical Centers to start or to expand participation in NCTN/NCORP oncology clinical trials utilizing a VA Storefront hub-and-spoke model.

Storefront awards are designed to aid VA institutions that may not necessarily have the number of potential clinical trial enrollments needed to join SWOG as an individual main member site, and/or aid sites that may not have the infrastructure or experience with NCTN and NCORP trials to join SWOG as an individual main member site.

A Storefront is a model of membership consisting of multiple VA Medical Centers working together open NCTN/NCORP clinical trials and enroll eligible veterans. The Storefront consortium is supported by a central hub site that provides an administrative core and coordination. Veteran participant accrual is summed across all Storefront sites under the hub membership.

The Award provides for up to \$150,000 for the first year and additional \$150,000 for the second year assuming key Year 1 benchmarks are met. Per Foundation policy, indirect costs are limited to 25%. The number of such awards and the duration of the award program are contingent upon available funding at The Hope Foundation. One grant will be awarded in the 2027 funding cycle. The Award is open to both new/proposed and existing Storefronts.

New/proposed storefronts must include the designation of a lead administrative hub site. The hub site must be a current or pending NCTN or NCORP site. There should be at least two proposed component sites but not more at initiation. There must be written agreement and support from the component sites. Proposed component sites do not need to be established NCTN or NCORP sites or be enrolled with the NCI CIRB at the time of application.

Existing storefront proposals must include a component site expansion plan as well as an overall plan to improve clinical trial activation, communications and accrual at existing and new component sites.

All Storefront proposals must demonstrate sufficient patient populations, committed investigators and staff and ancillary service support. The hub and spoke sites must also include letters of institutional support including Medical Center Directors, Chiefs of Staff, Associate Chiefs of Staff for Research and Director of the affiliated VA non-profit corporation.

OBJECTIVES

SWOG VA Storefront support is to address the needs of VA Medical Centers that have been unable to participate in NCI NCTN and NCORP network-group trials or wish to expand and improve an existing Storefront. The VA Storefront support funds will allow the successful applicant to form or expand a consortium of VA Medical Centers to provide the necessary tools that can allow better Veteran access to NCTN and NCORP cancer trials in the VA healthcare system.

Support may be used to assist sites in work such as:

- A VA Medical Center developing a Storefront hub site with multiple VA component sites
- Developing procedures and communications to create efficient and sustainable infrastructure and operational processes across a Storefront
- Allow an established Storefront to expand to support additional VA Medical Centers and optimize processes
- Covering salary for needed Storefront support personnel

KEY DATES

Deadline for submission: **5pm ET on October 2, 2026**

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Any Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center with research experience and infrastructure, who is an established SWOG or other NCTN/NCORP member, may apply to this program. Applicant sites must also have an associated VA Non-profit Corporation (NPC).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Completed SWOG **VA Storefront Application** [found here](#).
- **Cover Letter (<2 pages)** providing introduction which describes the hub institution's intent to closely align with SWOG and network group trials, and willingness to carry out steps to do so, and the proposed spoke site names and locations. This letter should be signed by the hub and spoke sites' VA Medical Center Director, Chief of Staff, and Associate Chief of Staff for Research, as well as the proposed Principal Investigator at the hub and each of the spoke sites.
- **Aims Page (<5 pages)** which describes current cancer care and research at the hub and spoke medical centers, identified strengths, and gaps or challenges.

The Aims Page may also include the following:

- How many cancer patients are treated in your clinic(s)? Is this stable or increasing?
 - Do you currently open Pharma or other non-NCI sponsored cancer trials? If yes, types of studies, enrollment experience, etc.
 - How many Veterans do you or could you offer an NCI Network Group trial? Future enrollment goal(s)?
 - What is your current staffing to support trials and/or what are your needs to look like? Future plans?
 - Specific gaps in local support or services that could be corrected under the grant
 - Plans for communication across the hub and spoke sites; planned efforts to facilitate collaboration across sites; proposed structure for maximizing enrollment to NCTN and NCORP trials
 - End of Year 1 benchmarks
 - Any other information that may be beneficial when reviewing the hub and spoke sites for feasibility.
- **Letters of Support** from Nursing, Laboratory, Pharmacy, and Imaging Services at the hub site and spoke sites
 - Completed **Budget Form** and narrative (see [program page](#) for template)

Non-SWOG applicants must sign an Agreement of Understanding that they will become SWOG members, if awarded.

If a participating member within a LAPS or NCORP package, applicant must provide a signed release agreement from the LAPS or NCORP grantee, if awarded.

SUBMISSION

Compiled application materials should be submitted through The Hope Foundation website in accordance with form and instructions found on [the program page](#).

SCORING CRITERIA

Applications will be scored on:

- Feasibility of proposed plan
- Institutional support and enthusiasm to offer NCTN and NCORP trials
- Populations sufficient to meet the Storefront recruitment goals
- Potential to further develop in NCTN experience
- Strength of proposed structure for communication and collaboration across hub and spoke sites
- Propriety of budget and budget justification

Applications may take up to 8 weeks for review upon receipt of complete submission.

PAYMENT

Payment will be remitted at start of grant period. The source of funds is nonfederal.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Final Progress report, financial and programmatic, will be required within 30 days of award period end. Templates will be provided in advance.

All inquiries related to this award may be directed to:

Johanna Horn, President & CEO, The Hope Foundation: jo@thehopefoundation.org

Stephen Bartlett, Chair, SWOG VA Committee: Stephen.Bartlett2@va.gov