

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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National Grange Awarded Funding for a Project to Give Rural Women a Voice in Patient-Centered Health Research

We are pleased to announce that the National Grange has been approved for a funding award through the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award Program, an initiative of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The funds will support Rural Women Shaping Health Research: Building Capacity for Patient-Centered CER Among Rural Women, a two-year project to build rural women's capacity to engage as partners in patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER).

"For too long, rural women have lived the realities of our health care system without having a meaningful voice in shaping the research behind it," said Christine Hamp, President of the National Grange. "This project changes that. We are empowering rural women to move from being subjects of research to trusted partners in it – ensuring their experiences, challenges, and priorities help shape better health care decisions for rural America. That's exactly what the Grange has always done: give communities a voice and help them turn that voice into action."

Dr. Laurie Anne Ferguson, DNP, APRN, Co-Project Lead, will lead the engagement project at the National Grange, alongside Co-Project Lead Burton Eller. The project will focus on preparing rural women aged 50 and older to participate as informed, confident partners in patient-centered CER.

"Rural women understand the realities of accessing health care in ways that data alone can never capture," said Dr. Laurie Anne Ferguson, Co-Project Lead. "Our goal is to equip them with the confidence, knowledge, and skills to become true research partners - helping ensure that future studies ask the right questions, measure what matters most, and produce findings that improve health outcomes in rural communities."

The project will recruit 10 community Granges from across the country. Each participating Grange will nominate one woman member, aged 50 or older, to serve as a Community Health Champion. Community Health Champions will lead community roundtables, surfacing the health priorities that matter most to rural women and drawing on their own lived experience to shape those conversations.

Through training grounded in PCORI's engagement resources, Community Health Champions will gain the skills to help determine what gets studied and which outcomes matter most. The project will also produce a replicable engagement toolkit, training videos, and a prioritized set of rural women's research priorities, to be shared with researchers, Clinical and Translational Science Institutes (CTSIs), and PCORI-funded investigators seeking community partners.

Rural Women Shaping Health Research is part of a portfolio of projects funded by PCORI to help develop a community of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other stakeholders who are better equipped to engage as partners in all phases of patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) and to disseminate results of PCORI-funded studies. Through its Engagement Award Program, PCORI is creating an expansive network of individuals, communities, and organizations who can leverage their lived experience and expertise to influence research to be more patient-centered, relevant, and useful.

About PCORI

PCORI is a nonprofit organization with a mission to fund research that will provide patients, their caregivers, and clinicians with the evidence-based information that is needed to make better-informed health care decisions.

About National Grange

The National Grange is a community-driven, nonpartisan organization that brings people together to strengthen their local communities through service, shared learning, leadership, and connection to the land. Founded in 1867, the Grange includes more than 1,400 local chapters across the country, where members take action on what matters most close to home. From supporting families and schools to organizing events and advocating for local needs, Grange members contribute millions of hours of service each year. The Grange creates opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to make a meaningful difference in their communities.

Learn more at www.nationalgrange.org

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