

Project Cooperation Brief

HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-CARE-03: Identifying and Addressing Low-Value Care in Health and Care Systems

Title

Addressing Underuse and Inequities in Low-Value Care Through Implementation and Evaluation

Partner Seeking Consortium / Coordinator

Arizona State University (ASU) – Safety Net Advancement Center (SNAC)

U.S. R1 Public Research University | Non-EU Associated Partner (Eligible for EU Funding)

Institutional Profile

Arizona State University (ASU) is a leading U.S. R1 public research university committed to improving population health and reducing inequities through use-inspired, translational research. The Safety Net Advancement Center (SNAC) is an applied health research center with extensive experience working alongside safety-net providers, behavioral health systems, and public health agencies serving underserved and marginalized populations. SNAC specializes in implementation and de-implementation research within **resource-constrained health systems**, with particular strength in behavioral health integration, patient-centered measurement, and equity-focused evaluation. Through long-standing partnerships, SNAC maintains access to large-scale health system, administrative, and population-level datasets, enabling rigorous real-world assessment of access, engagement, and outcomes.

Relevance to the Horizon Europe Call

This cooperation proposal aligns directly with **HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-CARE-03** by addressing **underuse and inequities** as critical, but often under-emphasized, dimensions of low-value care. While overuse and misuse are central to low-value care discussions, persistent underuse of evidence-based services among underserved populations represents a major source of avoidable harm and inefficiency. ASU/SNAC contributes methodologies to identify inequitable patterns of underuse, design implementation strategies that improve access and engagement, and evaluate whether de-implementation of low-value care unintentionally exacerbates disparities. This equity-centered perspective is consistent with **Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA)** principles and strengthens the call's focus on patient-centered, system-level impact.

Proposed Role in the Consortium

Work Package Lead or Key Partner – Equity, Underuse, and Implementation Evaluation

ASU proposes to lead or contribute to work packages focused on:

- Identification and measurement of **underuse and inequitable access** to high-value care
- Equity-sensitive indicators capturing variation by population, setting, and care pathway
- Implementation strategies to improve uptake and engagement in under-resourced settings
- Economic and ROI evaluation assessing distributional effects and access-related outcomes
- Mixed-methods evaluation of effectiveness, equity, scalability, and transferability

Key Technical Contributions

- **Equity & Underuse Measurement:** Disparity-sensitive and intersectional indicator development
- **Implementation Research:** Behavioral health integration, workflow redesign, and patient-centered care models
- **Economic Evaluation:** Assessment of how interventions affect access, engagement, and outcomes across populations
- **Real-World Evaluation:** Embedded pilots in safety-net and resource-constrained systems
- **Knowledge Translation:** Policy briefs, implementation tools, and learning collaboratives focused on equity impact

Added Value as a Non-EU Partner

ASU provides complementary international expertise by offering:

- Comparative insights from U.S. safety-net and behavioral health systems
- Experience evaluating equity impacts of payment and delivery reforms
- Strong translational pathways from research to policy and practice
- Commitment to sustained EU–U.S. collaboration on equity-oriented health system transformation

Contact

Matt Martin, PhD

Associate Director, Safety Net Advancement Center
Arizona State University | College of Health Solutions
matthew.perry.martin@asu.edu | +1-602-481-9971