



OVERVIEW

The QIResource Consulting (QIRC) program provides **no-cost** quality improvement coaching and consultation to cancer centers that serve disproportionately affected patient populations. With leadership from dedicated ACS quality improvement consultants, the program follows a structured, data-driven methodology to identify problems, uncover root causes, and implement sustainable solutions that improve patient access and care.

PROGRAM CRITERIA

- Cancer center that provides systemic treatment to disproportionately affected populations (including pediatrics)
- Defined, measurable problem
- Dedicated project leadership
- Senior leadership support
- 6-month commitment (approximate)
- Weekly/bi-weekly meetings with project team (as determined by the team)

PROJECT FOCUS

Specific focus on patient access, care, or safety, such as:

- Clinic wait times
- Time to treatment
- Symptom management
- Length of stay
- Readmission
- In patient infection control
- Adverse event trends
- EOL measures

PROCESS STEPS

Selected centers will be assigned an ACS QI coach to facilitate the following project milestones:

1. Team Charter
2. Problem Statement
3. Measurement Plan
4. AIM Statement
5. Process Map
6. Cause & Effect
7. Solution Prioritization
8. Pilot & Evaluation
9. Implement
10. Monitor & Measure
11. Sustain & Share

IMPORTANT DATES

- Application closes: **November 17, 2025 at 8:00 pm ET**
- Notification: **December 15, 2025**
- QIRC Kickoff Meeting: **January 8, 2026 at 3:00 pm ET**

APPLY

To apply, click here > [QIRC Application Form](#)



Targets
cancer centers
providing care to
disproportionately
affected populations



No-cost consulting
to assist with
solving a quality
improvement
problem



Offered to those with
the greatest need and
limited resources for
external consultants

QIResource Consulting (QIRC) Program FAQ

What is the QIRC program?

The QIResource Consulting (QIRC) program is a no-cost offering from the American Cancer Society (ACS) that provides dedicated quality improvement (QI) consulting to cancer centers that serve disproportionately affected populations. With leadership from ACS QI consultants, the program helps centers address critical problems that impact patient access or patient care, particularly those impacting vulnerable populations.

What topics/issues are suggested for the QIRC program?

Ideally, we want to help you tackle the problems and pain points you currently experience with patient access or patient care. However, some examples of past projects that we have supported include:

- Clinic wait times – Reducing delays to improve patient experience and operational efficiency.
- Time to treatment – Ensuring timely cancer treatment initiation.
- Length of stay – Optimizing hospital stays to improve patient outcomes.
- Readmission rates – Reducing unnecessary readmissions through better care coordination.

What does the American Cancer Society's involvement include?

The American Cancer Society (ACS) provides:

- A dedicated QI coach to guide the project team
- Expertise in process improvement methodologies
- Data review and analysis support
- Basic QI training (when needed)
- Resources and tools for structured problem-solving
- Regular check-ins and feedback

What are the eligibility criteria for the QIRC program?

To participate, a cancer center must:

- Be a cancer center providing systemic cancer treatment to disproportionately affected populations
- Have a defined, measurable problem related to patient access or care
- Secure senior leadership support for the initiative
- Commit to a six-month project cycle with active participation
- Engage in weekly or bi-weekly meetings with the project team and ACS coach

How do you define disproportionately affected populations?

These are patient populations that experience higher cancer burden, barriers to care, or worse outcomes compared to the general population (e.g., racial/ethnic minority groups, rural communities, low-income or underinsured patients, medically underserved areas).

What will the QI process look like for the project?

Selected centers will follow a structured improvement process, facilitated by the ACS QI coach. The process includes rigorous causal analysis, solutions prioritization, and sustainability planning to ensure solutions are hardwired.

What will the meeting cadence look like for the project?

- **Kickoff Meeting** – This meeting will introduce participating systems, define program goals, and outline expectations for all involved.
- **Weekly/Bi-weekly Team Meetings** – To build momentum and ensure steady progress, teams will meet weekly or bi-weekly to start. This will allow time to implement interventions and allow for the "soak" phase, the time needed for interventions to take effect. Based on the complexity of the intervention(s), we anticipate needing 1-3 months for this phase before pulling final data to assess progress.
- **Final Presentation** – This meeting provides an opportunity for all projects to share their progress, highlight key successes and lessons learned, and present results. Project Leads are encouraged to invite key stakeholders and leadership from their system to learn about the project's impact and final outcomes.

What information is collected on the QIRC application?

Applicants must provide:

- System Information – Name, city, state
- Project Lead – Name, title, email
- Leadership Champion – Name, title, email
- Patient Caseload – Data across oncology departments
- Payor Mix – Overview of patient insurance types
- Description of Problem – Specific pain point and its urgency for the organization
- Measurement Plan – Metrics for tracking the issue and evaluating progress
- Evidence of Problem – Data or qualitative insights supporting the need for improvement

What is expected of a Project Lead?

The Project Lead is responsible for managing the project on a day-to-day basis, coordinating team activities, and tracking progress. They collaborate directly with internal stakeholders and QI coaches to ensure project milestones are achieved.

What is expected of the Leadership Champion?

The Leadership Champion is a senior leader who provides high-level support, advocacy, and resources for the project. The champion should be able to remove barriers when necessary.

I've heard this program is meant to help fix something, not do something. What does that mean?

Our QI program focuses on identifying and addressing specific problems or inefficiencies within existing processes, rather than building or implementing new programs or initiatives. The goal is to improve workflows, eliminate waste, and enhance outcomes by making data-driven improvements for current systems.

Can health systems submit multiple problems for consideration?

Yes. However, we recommend submitting a separate application for each individual problem. This approach will allow us to give each issue the consideration it deserves. By submitting individual applications, health systems can increase their chances of being selected to the program.

In addition to the project lead and senior leadership support, what are the expectations for project team composition and support?

Depending on the project focus, additional members may include representatives from IT, clinical staff, pharmacy, patient support services, or front desk staff. Having a fully representative team ensures diverse perspectives, supports accurate problem identification, and strengthens the development and sustainability of effective solutions.

What advice can you give me to increase our chance of selection?

Selection will primarily focus on the submitted application, but an additional interview may be scheduled to further understand the application and confirm your system's commitment to the project. To increase your chances of selection, we recommend focusing on the following key areas:

- **Defined, Measurable Problem:** Clearly identify and define the problem you aim to address, ensuring it is specific and measurable. Additionally, sharing how you know this is a real problem is also useful.
- **Committed Leadership Support:** Secure strong senior leadership support. This demonstrates that the project will be prioritized and allocated the necessary resources to ensure successful implementation.
- **Identified Multidisciplinary Team:** Ensure your team includes members from departments directly associated with the process to be improved. A diverse, cross-functional team will contribute to a more effective and sustainable outcome.