

2025 Funding Project: Bringing Low-Dose Lung Cancer Screening to Women at Risk

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Cost: \$200,000

Timeline:

- Echo fundraising: One Year
- Implementation time: Two years

Synopsis

In year one, the focus is on the technical adaptation of the LDCT screening program to ensure seamless integration into the Cancer Center's workflow. This involves evaluating the existing CT equipment, assessing software capabilities, and identifying necessary upgrades to optimize low-dose lung cancer screenings. Mary Bird Perkins is working closely with vendors to explore software purchasing options, ensuring imaging protocols align with national screening standards. A dedicated program coordinator will be brought on board to oversee billing, patient outreach and coordination between radiology, oncology, pulmonology, and administrative teams. Funding from The Echo Alliance supports software procurement, staff training and initial program development. Additionally, technical and service support will be established to ensure the screening technology functions efficiently and meets quality assurance standards.

The program will shift to full implementation and patient outreach in the second year. With the technical infrastructure in place, efforts will focus on building referral pathways, increasing patient access and launching educational campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of lung cancer screening. The program coordinator will manage financial assistance programs, streamline the billing process and facilitate follow-ups for abnormal findings. Partnerships with community organizations and primary care providers will help expand the reach of screening services. A researcher will analyze data collected from the first year to assess the program's effectiveness, improve patient outcomes and explore long-term funding opportunities to sustain and grow the initiative.

Additional Details:

Lung cancer is the number one cause of cancer deaths in women, killing more people than breast, ovarian, and cervical cancer combined. Many women do not realize they are at risk, and lung cancer is often found too late. Women who have had cancer before, like breast cancer or lymphoma, may have a higher chance of getting lung cancer because of past treatments like radiation or chemotherapy. This project will help more women get low-dose CT (LDCT) scans, which can find lung cancer early when it is easier to treat. The goal is to increase awareness, improve access to screening and save lives.

To make this happen, Mary Bird Perkins will create a screening program for women at risk. Doctors will use electronic medical records to find patients who qualify for screenings. Nurses and patient navigators will help educate women about why lung cancer screenings are essential. The program will also work with insurance companies and grants to ensure that more women, especially those who don't have good access to healthcare, can get screened. A special public awareness campaign will help spread the word and encourage women to take charge of their lung health.

This program will help more women find lung cancer early, giving them a better chance of survival. By making screening easier to access, the project will reduce deaths and close the gap in lung cancer care. The Cancer Center will track how many women get screened, how many cancers are found early and how screening improves patient outcomes. With better education, early detection, and easier access to care, this project can make a big difference in the fight against lung cancer for women.

Philanthropic Support:

Philanthropic support from The Echo Alliance plays a crucial role in making this project successful. Each year, this dedicated group of women donates funds to support important Cancer Center initiatives, helping to expand access to life-saving care.

The group's generosity allows Mary Bird Perkins to offer low-dose CT screenings to women at risk, develop patient education programs and ensure that financial barriers do not prevent women from getting screened. With The Echo Alliance's support, the project can reach more underserved women, improve early lung cancer detection and ultimately save lives. This funding will also help drive research, track patient outcomes and ensure that screening services continue to grow and improve in the future.