

BC SUPPORT Unit Vancouver Island Centre

Patient-Oriented Research Team Assist Grants

Background:

The [BC SUPPORT Unit Vancouver Island Centre](#) (Island Centre) supports patient involvement in research by providing in-kind services in patient engagement, research navigation, knowledge translation, and training and capacity development. As part of our commitment to facilitating research relationships between **patients**¹, researchers, healthcare providers, decision-makers, and other stakeholders, we are inviting applications for ‘Patient-Oriented Research (POR) Team Assist’ grants.

Patient-Oriented Research is carried out in partnership with patients, answers research questions that matter to patients, and aims to improve health outcomes. If you’d like to learn more about the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR), please [click here](#).

Objectives:

POR Team Assist grants are intended to fund ‘pre-grant’ activities to inform future patient-oriented research projects. POR Team Assist grants cannot be used to fund teams that are not patient-oriented in nature. Grants will:

- **Facilitate** the formation of multi-disciplinary POR research teams
- **Promote** collaboration amongst stakeholders and remove barriers to engagement
- **Support** patients to provide input on priorities for health research
- **Enable** teams to submit strong POR applications to future competitions

Awards:

In addition to planning and coordination of POR meetings, funds will be available for catering for an engagement opportunity or workshop; renting meeting space for public fora; compensation of patient partners or physicians to attend brainstorming sessions.

Eligibility Criteria:

For a POR Team Assist application to be eligible for review, the proposed activities must be truly patient-oriented, following the definitions:

¹ For the purpose of this funding opportunity, “patients” are defined as anyone with lived experience of a health condition including informal caregivers, family, and friends.

- Project will be carried out in partnership with patients/family members/caregivers
- Project focuses on patient-identified priorities or “what matters” to patients
- Project aims to improve patient healthcare outcomes
- Project PI and/or co-PI must be based in BC and affiliated with a Vancouver Island host institution that has the capacity to hold funds. All funds must be spent in the Vancouver Island region.

We recommend that teams include the following:

- At least two Vancouver Island -based patients/people with lived experience
- At least one Vancouver Island -based clinician or allied health professional
- Additional stakeholders (e.g. decision-makers, representatives of non-profit groups) are encouraged, but not required.

Ministry of Health research priorities:

Activities that align with the priorities below are preferred. However, topics that are outside of these priorities will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

1. Addressing knowledge and service gaps identified by Indigenous communities
2. Enhancing access to primary care services
3. Services for seniors with complex medical conditions
4. Mental health & substance use care
5. Services for patients needing surgery
6. Rural and remote health care services

How to apply:

To apply to this funding opportunity, please fill out the application form located [here](#).

Applicants can expect to be notified within three weeks after an application has been submitted.

Evaluation and Screening:

- Applications will undergo preliminary screening by Island Centre staff to ensure they meet eligibility criteria. The Island Centre’s Oversight Committee will then assess those applications that pass preliminary review.
- Applications will be scored on a points system with respect to the above categories, with awards being made based on the ranking of submissions after scores have been totalled.

Questions?

Please contact islandcentre@bcsupportunit.ca