

Island Centre Planning and Development Awards 2019-2020 Targeted Call

Background

This funding opportunity is being sponsored by the BC SUPPORT Unit Vancouver Island Centre. The Island Centre operates as a partnership between Island Health and the University of Victoria, to provide support for multidisciplinary teams conducting health-related Patient-Oriented Research (POR) across the area served by Island Health.

Description of Funding Opportunity

These awards aim to support researchers and clinicians to partner with patients and other stakeholders in ***planning research studies or developing POR projects*** in the Island Health region. Research and operating expenses or quality improvement projects are not eligible for support under this award. The objectives of the award are to:

- Enable early career researchers, emerging POR teams, or applicants who do not have an existing program of funded research to plan or develop patient-oriented research activities;
- Support POR activities that contribute to advancing evidence uptake and improving health outcomes for populations in the Island Health region, while demonstrating the SPOR Patient Engagement principles of Inclusiveness, Support, Mutual Respect, and Co-Building;
- Respond to health authority priorities that would benefit from patient input;
- Develop POR capacity through an interdisciplinary approach that fosters collaboration between research partners (e.g. patient partners, researchers, clinicians and allied health professionals, community members, and health system decision-makers);
- Create opportunities for research partners to work together, from conceptualization of the research question through to planning for implementation and dissemination of results;
- Demonstrate the impact of the funding for research teams and patients; and
- Encourage recipients to use patient-oriented approaches to research in the future.

Funds Available

A total of \$50,000 is available through this competition; applicants may ask for any amount but submission of a tiered budget is recommended. Funding terms are one year in duration, with awards beginning on or before April 1st, 2020. Applicants must not have already received confirmed funding for the proposed activities.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, with funds being distributed to successful teams until the available pool of funding is fully allocated.

Eligibility

The Lead Applicant must be an academic researcher, clinician, allied health professional or healthcare decision-maker whose host institution will hold the funds. Co-Leads are encouraged.

- Teams must include at least one representative from each of the following stakeholder groups: patient partners (people with lived experience of the topic under study); academic researchers; healthcare professionals or clinicians; healthcare decision-makers.
- Applicants must be based in the [Island Health region](#) and the proposed activities must be relevant to local contexts.

Examples of eligible costs

- Meeting costs, including room and equipment rentals, catering
- Travel expenses related to team meetings
- Reimbursement for patient partners, including out-of-pocket expenses, travel, childcare etc.
- Patient partner honoraria
- Clinician release time (Doctors of BC sessional rates)
- Meeting facilitation and graphic recording services
- Consultant fees
- Office supplies directly related to the above activities

Targeted Priority Stream: Acute Care Transitions

Island Health is shifting the focus of hospital-based services to meet the acute care needs of the population on Vancouver Island, with a focus on excellence in service delivery and seamless transitions to and from other care settings. This includes, but is not limited to, revitalizing acute flow and discharge planning and creating new best practice structures.¹ In addition, Island Health's Patient Flow and Care strategy puts greater emphasis is on community-based health and care, and ensuring services are available to clients and patients outside of hospital. This overarching strategy will contribute to lowered occupancy by reducing avoidable hospital admissions, the length of time patients stay in hospital, and the number of people in hospital beds who do not require hospital-level acute care.²

High occupancy means that most hospital beds are full most of the time. If there are no unoccupied hospital beds available, then surgeries may have to be cancelled or hospital admissions delayed for people who need care. This has negative consequences for patient safety and can cause congestion in the emergency room as patients wait for an inpatient bed.³

This targeted call will fund Planning & Development projects that focus on future research to improve care transitions or patient flow pathways from acute care to community or long-term care settings.

¹ Island Health Multi-Year Plan, 2019-2022

² <https://www.islandhealth.ca/sites/default/files/2019-07/p-acute-care-occupancy.pdf>

³ Island Health Multi-Year Plan, 2019-2022

Key Competition Dates

- Rolling applications: no deadline
- Funding Start-Date/Disbursal: on or before April 1, 2020

Award Conditions and Responsibilities

- *Letter of Agreement:* Successful applicants will be required to sign a letter of agreement with the Conditions and Responsibilities of the Award before funds are disbursed.
- *Management of Funds:* The Host Institution must administer the funds for the benefit of each successful applicant, co-investigator and/or collaborators of that Institution in accordance with the Tri-Council Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions, and with any other relevant policies of the Agency, including those at: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/FinancialAdminGuide-GuideAdminFinancier/index_eng.asp
- *Return of Funds:* The Host Institution will repay any expenses that do not fully conform to applicable Tri-Agency regulations, policies and requirements, and any unspent funds at the end of the award period.
- *Acknowledgement:* Any formal presentation or publication resulting from the Award must acknowledge the support of the BC SUPPORT Unit Vancouver Island Centre.
- *Training:* Active participation in one or more of the CIHR National Curriculum for Patient-Oriented Research training modules will be encouraged.
- *Multi-disciplinary teams:* Successful POR requires the involvement of multiple stakeholders; the BC SUPPORT Unit Vancouver Island Centre will facilitate connections as required.
- *Final Report:* A summary of the activities and accomplishments achieved during the Award period will be required within 90 days of the end of the funding period.
- *Financial report* – A final financial report will be required within 90 days of the funding end date, utilizing Tri-Council Statement of Account form 300.

Full Application Components (.doc or .pdf)

1. Identified POR priorities or questions (max. 0.5 pages): Explain how your proposed work stems from an identified patient priority or healthcare need.
2. Patient-Oriented Research plan (max. 2 pages): Provide an overview of your POR plan, including background on the topic, specific planning and development aims, and proposed patient/stakeholder engagement methods.
3. Proposed budget (max. 1 page) including justifications for amounts requested
4. Knowledge Translation plan (max. 1 page): Describe how you will create impact with your proposed project. This may include plans for future grant submissions or research activities.
5. Letters of Support (optional)

Applications must use a minimum of 12-point font and 1-inch margins for all submitted materials. POR materials to help with the application can be found on the [BC SUPPORT Unit Resources page](#).

Selection Process and Review Criteria

The BC SUPPORT Unit Vancouver Island Centre Oversight Committee (comprised of patient partners and representatives from academic and clinical partners) will follow a formal selection process to evaluate each of the submissions, taking into account the following:

- *Approach*
- *Fit with targeted call*
- *Building capacity for patient-oriented research*
- *Feasibility*
- *Impact*

Application Submission and Support

Application packages may be submitted in Word or PDF format to: islandcentre@bcsupportunit.ca.
General enquiries may also be sent to this email address.

For support with developing an application, connecting with stakeholders or patient partners, or developing a budget, please connect with:

- Tara McMillan (Research Navigator, South Island - tara.mcmillan@viha.ca) or
- Uta Sboto-Frankenstein (Research Navigator, Mid- to North-Island - uta.sbotofrankenstein@viha.ca)