

2021-22 Planning & Development Awards / Research-to-Action Awards BC SUPPORT Unit Vancouver Island Centre

Background

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has developed provincial partnerships to support Patient-Oriented Research (POR) with expertise, resources, and knowledge. POR is defined as research that is done in partnership with patients rather than ‘on’ patients; answers research questions that matter to patients; and aims to improve health outcomes. The term ‘patient’ is inclusive of individuals with lived experience of health issues as well as their informal caregivers, family, and friends.

In British Columbia (BC), the BC SUPPORT (Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials) Unit is a multi-partner organization dedicated to increasing the quantity and quality of patient-oriented research, and is one of ten SUPPORT Units across Canada. The provincial Hub is located in Vancouver, with four regional centres located in the Island, Fraser, Northern, and Interior Health Authority regions.

These funding opportunities are 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 POR teams across the area served by Island Health (including Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and the mainland communities north of Powell River and south of Rivers Inlet).

The awards are intended to support teams in the Island Health region who are:

Planning and developing POR research projects

or

Mobilizing and implementing the results of POR research into practice and policy

Description of Funding Opportunities

The objectives of these awards are to:

- Facilitate opportunities for research partners to work together, from conceptualization of a research question through to implementation and dissemination of results;
- Develop capacity through an interdisciplinary approach that fosters collaboration;
- Advance evidence uptake and/or translation of research evidence into clinical practice;
- Improve health outcomes for populations across the Island Health region;
- Co-develop events, activities, and/or tools to increase applicability and accessibility; and
- Encourage recipients to use patient-oriented approaches to research in the future.

Pilot projects, operating expenses, and quality improvement projects are not eligible for funding.

Funds Available

A total of \$50,000 is available through this competition, with one-time funding being provided up to a maximum of \$10,000 per team. Funding terms are a maximum of five months in duration, with awards beginning November 1, 2021 and ending on or before March 31, 2022. Applicants must not have already received confirmed funding for the proposed activities.

Applicants should indicate whether they are seeking support for Planning & Development activities or Research-to-Action activities. Applications will be ranked in scoring order within these two streams, with awards being distributed to teams from the top down. The BC SUPPORT Unit Vancouver Island Centre reserves the right to distribute funding between streams as needed, depending on the number of applications received in each stream. Applicants may only identify themselves as the Lead on one application, though they may act as Co-Applicants on as many applications as they wish.

Eligibility – Planning & Development Awards

The Lead Applicant must be a researcher, clinician, allied health professional or healthcare decision-maker whose host institution is eligible to hold funding.

- 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.
- Patient Partner Co-Leads are recommended. Teams without a patient partner co-lead at the time of application must commit to identifying one as they move forward with planning.
- The inclusion of trainees (e.g. graduate students, postdoctoral fellows) is welcomed.
- Lead applicants must be based in the [Island Health region](#) and the proposed activities must be relevant to Island Health populations.

Eligibility – Research-to-Action Awards

The Lead Applicant must be a researcher, clinician, allied health professional or healthcare decision-maker whose host institution is eligible to hold funding.

- 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.
- Patient Partner Co-Leads are required to be identified (by name, or by recognition of role) in your application and are encouraged to write a letter of support.
- Lead applicants must be based in the [Island Health region](#) and proposed activities must be relevant to Island Health populations.
- Knowledge mobilization/dissemination and activities that will catalyze evidence into action must be based on patient-oriented research projects that are complete or in progress.

Examples of eligible costs

- Meeting or dissemination costs, including room and equipment rentals, catering, printing of materials, teleconference line costs, training costs etc.

- Travel expenses related to team meetings or dissemination events
- Reimbursement for patient partners, including out-of-pocket expenses, travel, childcare etc.
- Honoraria for patient partners, key speakers, and Elders
- Clinician release time (reimbursed at Doctors of BC sessional rates)
- Meeting facilitation and graphic recording services
- Consultant or sub-contractor fees
- Office supplies directly related to the above activities

Please note that salary payments or buyouts for trainees and research staff are not eligible expenses.

Strategic priorities

Activities in areas that are aligned with the strategic priorities of healthcare partners in the Island Health region will be most competitive for funding. These include:

- the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated implications for health;
- substance use concerns, including responses to the opioid crisis;
- cultural safety and humility/Indigenous health;
- mental health and wellness; and
- seniors' health/care transitions

Key Competition Dates

- Deadline for full application submission: September 27, 2021 at 4pm (PST)
- Notification of results: November 1, 2021
- Funding Period: November 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

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 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:
https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/TAFA-AFTO/index_eng.asp
- *Return of Funds:* The Host Institution will repay expenses that do not conform to applicable Tri-Agency regulations 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.
- *Final Report:* A summary of the activities and accomplishments achieved during the Award period will be required within 30 days of the end of the funding period.
- *Financial report* – A final financial report will be required within 30 days of the funding end date, utilizing Tri-Council Statement of Account form 300.

Full Application Components

1. Application form
2. Identified POR priorities or questions (max. 500 words): Explain how your proposed work stems/results from an identified patient priority or need.
3. Patient-Oriented Research plan (max. 1,000 words):
 - i. For Planning & Development awards, provide an overview of your project, including background on the topic, specific planning or development aims, and proposed patient/stakeholder engagement methods.
 - ii. For Research-to-Action awards, please provide a summary of your project activities to date, including results or recommendations.
4. Proposed budget (max. 1 page) including justifications for amounts requested
5. Knowledge Translation plan (max. 1,000 words):
 - i. For teams requesting planning support, describe how you will create impact with your proposed project. This may include plans for future grant submissions or research.
 - ii. For Research-to-Action awards, provide an overview of your knowledge mobilization strategies and describe how you intend to maximize the impact of your research.
6. Team composition (max 500 words): Provide a short summary of team members' relevant experience and/or qualifications. Patient partners or other stakeholders may wish to remain anonymous if the proposed activities deal with sensitive or confidential information.
7. Letters of Support (optional)

Please do not include any additional materials, as they will not be reviewed.

Applications must use a minimum of 12-point font and 1-inch margins for all submitted documents. 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 organizations) and/or external reviewers will follow a formal selection process to evaluate each of the submissions, taking into account the following:

Approach (25%)

- a. Fit with definition of patient-oriented research
- b. Clarity and alignment of the goals of the proposed activities with the objectives of this award
- c. Appropriateness of the patient-oriented research approach, as per CIHR SPOR Patient Engagement principles
- d. Demonstrated knowledge of area of interest, including key studies, theories, or practices
- e. Evidence for need of research in the area of interest

f. Description of how equity, diversity, and inclusion among those engaged will be considered throughout the project

Building capacity for patient-oriented research (25%)

- a. Degree of meaningful inclusion of patients and other relevant stakeholders and their appropriateness in relation to the goals of the proposal
- b. Willingness to adapt activities based on input from all team members and stakeholders
- c. Level of involvement in decision-making of each team member

Feasibility (25%)

- a. Appropriateness of the team to carry out the proposed activities and achieve objectives
- b. Appropriateness of the budget based on proposed activities, including justification for items
- c. Feasibility of engagement activities

Impact (25%)

- a. Realistic expectations of impact of planning or dissemination activities
- b. Potential to contribute to the improvement of health care systems and practices

Application Submission and Support

General inquiries and application submissions can be addressed to: islandcentre@viha.ca.

- If you plan to submit an application with Island Health as your host institution, please contact Dawn Waterhouse, Research Business Manager, for assistance with determining eligible and non-eligible expenses in advance of your submission (dawn.waterhouse@viha.ca)
 - For support with developing an application or connecting with stakeholders, please email Uta Sbotofrankenstein, Research Navigator for the mid/north Island (uta.sbotofrankenstein@viha.ca) or Clara Rubincam, Research Navigator for the South Island
 - For support with patient engagement activities, please email Taylor Hainstock, Patient Research Liaison (taylor.hainstock@viha.ca)
- For support with knowledge translation activities, please email islandcentre@viha.ca