



KPMG Foundation Research Seed and Health Equity Grant Program (2025-26)



Island Health acknowledges the homelands of the three Indigenous families on and around Vancouver Island: the Kwakwaka'wakw, Nuuchahnulth, and Coast Salish peoples. We are committed to addressing the ongoing impacts of colonialism and Indigenous-specific racism, and strive to decolonize research and promote cultural safety and humility. We welcome diverse ways of knowing, and seek to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion for all. Above all, we believe meaningful research must foster respectful relationships that put people first.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Island Health's seed grant competition funds health research projects that:

1. Align with Island Health's priorities and goals to improve care and services in our communities and achieve our vision of "Excellent health and care for everyone, everywhere, every time."
2. Engage people in research to gain experience, foster strong teams, and increase competitiveness for future funding opportunities.

Awards Available

- 4 KPMG Foundation research seed grants of up to \$12,500 each;
- 1 health equity grant of up to \$12,500 for health equity projects that aim to advance health equity and eliminate health disparities by improving outcomes and/or access to health care and services for equity-deserving groups.
- Funding for this competition has been generously provided by the Victoria Hospitals Foundation via the KPMG Foundation. We are grateful for their support.

Timeline

Information Sessions	Friday, Nov. 7 (10 – 11 am) - register ; Tuesday, Nov. 18 (12 – 1 pm) - register
Application Deadline	Monday, Feb 2, 2026
Application Review	Feb. - April 2026
Notification of Results	May 2026
Award Start-date	June 1, 2026
Award End-date	December 1, 2027 (18 months)

General Eligibility

1. The project must create new health knowledge or evidence, and/or apply existing knowledge or evidence in a new way (or context). Projects may also engage people in planning research.
2. The Lead Applicant may be from Island Health or from another organization. If the Lead Applicant is from another organization, an Island Health employee or affiliated health professional must be co-lead, either as a researcher or knowledge-user. Definitions of both terms can be found in this [glossary](#).
3. Projects must address at least one of Island Health's research priority areas, and be aligned with the organization's strategic aims and areas prioritized for improvement in alignment with the provincial government (listed in the [application form](#)).



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Additional Eligibility for Health Equity Projects

In addition to the above general criteria, health equity applications must:

1. Aim to advance health equity by improving the effectiveness, safety, appropriateness, and/or accessibility of health care and services for equity-deserving groups. *Equity-deserving groups may include Indigenous peoples, racialized groups, people with disabilities or health conditions, 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, women, newcomers, those who are unhoused, or others who experience unfair barriers and avoidable differences in health, health care, and health services.*
2. Engage with the equity-deserving group(s) that are the focus of the project to ensure the work is meaningful and acceptable to them.
3. Commit a minimum of \$2000 in the proposed budget to engagement activities and honoraria.

Submitting More than One Application

- The same application cannot be submitted for both a general seed grant and an equity grant. However, the same applicant or team may submit two different applications.

How to Apply

- Applications for both the general and the health equity grants should be submitted through this [online form](#) by **4:00 pm on Monday, February 2, 2026**. View a PDF copy of the application form.
- After submitting an application, the lead applicant will be directed to a voluntary and anonymous self-identification questionnaire. This questionnaire provides demographic information that will help enhance equitable and inclusive access to future competitions.

Application Support & Accommodation

- Please see [Application Supports and Resources](#), or email Isabel.Moore@islandhealth.ca.
- For teams that require more time or other considerations to complete the application, or are unable to access or submit it online, please email Isabel.Moore@islandhealth.ca.

Eligible and Ineligible Costs

In general, any cost directly related to project activities is an eligible expense, including:

- salary and benefits for team members
- costs that enable team members, patients or other partners, and/or participants to engage fully and equitably throughout the project
- minor software (not more than \$2000) or equipment (not more than \$5000)
- professional services (e.g. transcription, graphic design, etc.)
- study supplies

The following costs cannot be covered:

- payments that result in personal gain for any team member
- costs incurred before or after the term of the award
- ongoing operating or maintenance costs
- leased equipment, equipment costs over \$5000, or software over \$2000
- costs not directly related to the project
- overhead or administrative costs



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Evaluation Process

- All submitted applications will be screened to ensure they meet eligibility requirements. Ineligible applications will not be reviewed.
- Eligible applications will be reviewed by a panel drawn from across Island Health and partner organizations, including patient partners and community members.
- Review will be based on these [evaluation criteria](#). During the review period, applicants may be invited to provide more information at the request of reviewers.
- All applicants will receive feedback from reviewers to help improve future applications.

Successful Applications

- Successful applicants must abide by the [Conditions of Award](#).

Holding Funds

- Successful applicants may hold the funds at Island Health or a partner institution and must follow all applicable financial policies at the institution where funds are held. *Some eligible costs may not be eligible at all institutions; applicants must confirm eligible costs before submission.*
- A final budget will be reviewed and approved prior to disbursement of funds.

Reporting

- Grant-holders must submit progress reports every 6 months through an online form. Reminder emails and a link will be sent in advance of the deadline.
- A timeline of deliverables and milestones over the course of the project will be approved for grant-holders to report against.

Extensions

- In addition to the 18-month award term, grant-holders are eligible for one extension of up to 12 months on request. No further funding is available to projects that receive an extension.

Questions and Contact

- Please email Isabel.Moore@islandhealth.ca, Research Grant Facilitator.