

4/25/2017

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# Pathways to Innovation & Integration in Addiction & Mental Health 2017 Call for Proposals

*Pathways Grant*

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## *Pathways Grant*

### Description

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The Addiction and Mental Health SCN (AMH SCN) are pleased to announce the 2017 Pathways to Innovation & Integration in addiction and mental health funding competition designed to:

- foster and strengthen applied research and innovation to support implementation recommendations from the Valuing Mental Health Report (VMHR)
- identify and test evidence-informed practices and programs to improve community-based system integration
- create opportunity to spread the most effective integrated systems
- improve the quality of care for addiction and/or mental health patients in Alberta.

The awards are a maximum of \$50,000 and the total amount of funds available in this competition is up to \$300,000. Applications will be reviewed for scientific merit and strength of connection to the priority areas and recommendations of the VMHR. The grant is non-renewable.

Areas of priority of include:

- Children, youth and families
- People with multiple and complex needs
- Individuals requiring addiction services
- Indigenous people and communities

Areas of action include:

- Integration
- Primary Health Care
- Prevention/Early Intervention
- System enhancement

### Background

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The AMH SCN has been created to encourage the development of ideas that will improve addiction and mental health care according to the Health Quality Council of Alberta's six domains of quality: appropriateness, accessibility, effectiveness, efficiency, safety, and acceptability. The goal of this competition is to identify and test evidence-informed practices and programs to improve community-

based system integration, and lead to the adoption and spread of those practices considered most effective.

## Eligibility

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- The PI or project lead must be affiliated with an institution eligible to hold research funds and administer the funds: a post-secondary institution, a college/university, or health services provider (e.g., Alberta Health Services, Covenant Health, etc.)
- Project teams addressing the Indigenous people and communities priority area must have a letter of support from an appropriate person/group with that community.

## Review Criteria

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Applications considered eligible for funding will be evaluated based on pre-established criteria. The review panel will be informed by AMH SCN Core Committee members, the Addiction and Mental Health Branch of Alberta Health and a diverse group of stakeholders.

The assessment of proposals by the review panel will be based on the following criteria:

### Priority Area of Grant

- The grant must address one of the following (yes/no review)
  - Children, youth and families
  - People with multiple and complex needs
  - Individuals requiring addiction services
  - Indigenous people and communities

### Priority areas of action

- The grant must address one of the following (yes/no review)
  - Integration
  - Primary Health Care
  - Prevention/Early Intervention
  - System enhancement

### Proposal Merit

- Completeness of how the Alberta situation will be understood
- Innovative and original idea(s)/objectives
- Feasibility and viability, including consideration of the costs and sustainability
- Comprehensive, relevant performance metrics that can be used at the end of the first year of funding

### Team Strengths

- Evidence of integration within the population of interest and community in the research proposal
- Identification of building research capacity, i.e. research trainees and students
- Expertise related to the proposed project; past productivity of the project team
- Inclusion of appropriate stakeholders, including community members and/or people with lived experience of mental illness

## Methods and Analysis

- Rigor of the scientific methods
- Clear timelines with outcomes identified

## Budgetary Issues

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The time frame and associated expenses must be clearly justified. Funds should be expended within one year from the time they are made available. Upon request, a one year – no cost extension will be considered for the use of awarded amount (up to an additional 12 months).

Funding may be requested for:

- Direct costs up to \$50,000
- Stipend support for trainees, or salaries for research associates/assistants
- General research operating expenses, including specimen-related costs; data collection (e.g. chart abstraction), data entry and/or statistical analysis
- Expenses for travel that are essential for the conduct of the study (i.e. data collection)
- Publication costs, legal or patent fees, membership fees, academic fees; travel to conferences, symposiums or meetings necessary within a sound knowledge translation strategy
- Other expenses will be considered but must be justified

Funding will not be provided for:

- Expenses incurred prior to implementation of the grant
- Salaries for Principal Investigator, faculty member, resident/clinical fellow
- Expenses for equipment over \$5,000

## Reporting and Deliverables

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A final report and submission of a publication in a peer reviewed journal within two-years of award initiation will be required.

## Competition Schedule

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<b>April 25, 2017</b>	Call for Pathways to Addiction & Mental Health Innovation Funding applications
<b>June 6, 2017</b>	Application submission deadline
	Review of applications by Review Committee complete
<b>July 14, 2017</b>	Notification of awards and funds dispersed

## Program Policies

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- PIs may only hold a single active Pathways to Addiction & Mental Health Innovation Grant but may be co-investigators on multiple awards
- Successful applicants must provide proof of relevant ethics approvals prior to fund release

- Failure to submit a final report may disqualify the applicant from future funding
- All unused funds at the end of the award must be returned to the AMH SCN for use towards future research applications
- Important changes to study design, including study population, recruitment or intervention, must be reported to the AMH SCN immediately. If changes are substantial deviances from the original application, the grant may be closed and the funds returned
- Funding must be acknowledged in any publications (including presentations and abstracts) with the following: “Funding provided, in whole or in part, by Alberta Health. Provision of funding by Alberta Health does not signify that this project of publication represents the policies or views of Alberta Health” and “Project supported by the Addiction and Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network, Alberta Health Services”
- Subject to applicable laws, the PI shall allow the Province access to or provide copies to the Province of any data or information acquired, collected or produced by the project
- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered

Applicants are highly encouraged to work with members of the AMH SCN in preparation of their proposal.

## Application Instructions

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- Submit completed application by the indicated deadline:
  - Project proposal following the proposal template
  - Project budget with details and justification
  - Condensed Curriculum Vitae of the Principal Investigator
  - Any appendices (optional) up to 2 pages

All documents can be sent electronically to [Katherine.Rittenbach@ahs.ca](mailto:Katherine.Rittenbach@ahs.ca)

## Competition Review Panel

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Each grant will be reviewed by a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 members of the review panel, specific reviewers will be chosen based on their expertise in the areas of the proposed projects.

- Representative the Addiction and Mental Health Branch of Alberta Health
- Senior Medical Director, AMH SCN
- Executive Director, AMH SCN
- Assistant Scientific Director, a separate SCN with associated scope
- Patient Representative
- 2 Urban SCN core members
- 2 Rural SCN core members
- External Reviewers (as appropriate):
  - AMH experts from the zones and/or the Provincial Team within AHS
  - Research Facilitation experts in Biostatistics, Evaluation and Knowledge Translation