

# Diabetes, Obesity & Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network™ Seed Grant Program 2019/2020

## Call for Proposals \$40,000 Competition

### Timelines:

December 23, 2019  
February 28, 2020

Applications Due  
Notification of Awards

### At a glance:

- Receive support from the DON-SCN™ to strengthen or develop new research proposals for future external funding (i.e. CIHR, AI)
- Research aimed at prevention as well as improving efficiency, quality, and value of DON-related care in Alberta will be supported
- Four proposals will be awarded up to \$10,000 each
- Projects led by one of Alberta's academic institutions are eligible to apply



## 1. Description

The Diabetes, Obesity, & Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network (DON SCN™) is very pleased to announce the 2019-2020 Seed Grant funding competition. This opportunity is designed to allow researchers to conduct projects that would strengthen the rationale for larger funding proposals as well as potentially foster new collaborations. The research should align with the DON SCN™ Transformational Roadmap (<https://albertahealthservices.ca/assets/about/SCN™/ahs-SCN™-don-roadmap.pdf>) and have the potential to prevent the onset and/or progression of diabetes, obesity and malnutrition or to facilitate empowering patients and/or providers to better manage and improve DON-related health outcomes so that patients can live well. The maximum amount of a single award is \$10,000. The grant is non-renewable. The total amount of funding available in this competition is \$40,000.

## 2. Context

The DON SCN™ was created to encourage the development and implementation of evidence-based innovations that will improve DON-related health outcomes according to the Health Quality Council of Alberta's six domains of quality: appropriateness, accessibility, effectiveness, efficiency, safety, and acceptability. The goal of this research program is to encourage research that improves the outcomes and experiences of patients and their families encountering diabetes, obesity, or nutrition-related health problems.

## 3. Eligibility

- The Principal Investigator must be a faculty member in one of Alberta's academic institutions.
- Project area of research will include one or more of the three themes of health research (clinical, health services, population and public health).
- The Principal Investigator may only hold a single active seed grant from the DON SCN™ but may be a collaborator on other proposals.
- A member of the research team must be affiliated with the DON SCN™ research community.
- Previous awardees must have complied with reporting requirements to be eligible for funding in this competition.
- Employees of the DON SCN™ may not be Principal Investigators on seed grants.

## 4. Funding Criteria

Funds Available - Direct costs up to \$10,000

Funding may be requested for:

- General research operating expenses such as specimen-related costs; data collection, chart abstraction, statistical/financial analysis;
- Stipend support for trainees, or salaries for research associates/assistants.
- Other costs will be considered based on their justification.

Funding will NOT be provided for:

- Previously incurred expenses: funding will not be provided for expenses incurred prior to implementation of the grant.
- Investigator salaries.

- Publication costs, legal or patent fees, membership fees, academic fees, secretarial support; travel to conferences, symposiums, presentations or meetings.
- Travel outside of Alberta.
- Indirect costs.

## 5. Evaluation Criteria:

Applications considered eligible for funding will be evaluated based on pre-established criteria. The assessment of proposals by the Review Panel will be based on the following criteria and will be assessed according to several criteria from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

- a) Research Approach
  - Clarity of the research question.
  - Completeness of the literature review and relevance to study design/research plan.
  - Appropriateness of the research design.
  - Appropriateness of the research methods.
  - Feasibility of the research approach (including recruitment of subjects, project timeline, preliminary data where appropriate, etc.).
- b) Originality of the Proposal
  - Originality of the proposed research, in terms of the hypotheses/research questions addressed, novel technology/methodology, and/or novel applications of current technology/methodology.
  - Appropriateness to the scope of the DON-SCN™ Seed Grant competition.
- c) Applicant(s)
  - Qualifications of the applicants, including training, experience and independence (relative to career stage).
  - Expertise of the applicants, as demonstrated by scientific productivity over the past five years (publications, books, conference presentations, grants held, etc.).
  - Appropriateness of the team of applicants to carry out the proposed research.
- d) Environment for the Research.
  - Suitability of the environment to conduct the proposed research, including personnel, facilities and infrastructure.
  - How the research proposal will contribute to larger funding opportunities for potential spread and scale.
- e) Impact of the Research
  - Potential to improve diabetes, obesity and nutritional-related care in Alberta (see HQCA six domains of quality: Acceptability, Appropriateness, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Safety, and Accessibility).
  - Addresses a significant need or gap in health research and/or the health care system within Alberta.
  - Scientific rigour.

## 6. Reporting and Deliverables

- Awarded teams must provide a written final report within 28 months following announcement of award.

- PIs will be asked to provide indication of subsequent grant submissions related to their project as well as publications and presentations. The funding from the DON SCN™ (AHS) should be acknowledged in all materials.
- Investigators will be asked to present their research to the DON SCN™ Core Committee meeting at project completion.

## 7. Program Policies

- One PI from a Co-PI team will hold the funds. Seed grants will not be awarded to the same project more than once.
- A research project may be supported by one single active SCN™ seed grant.
- All unused funds at the end award term (2 years) must be returned to the DON SCN™.
- Funding will be provided for two years. The grant is non-renewable and cannot be extended.
- All publications/presentations, including public messages, arising from the DON SCN™ Seed Grant program must acknowledge the support of Alberta Health Services and the DON SCN™.
- Late or incomplete applications will be returned to the candidates.

## 8. Budget –one page; please include

Total Proposal Budget:

Maximum Amount: \$ 10,000

Stipend/salaries

Data collection

Data analysis

Supplies

Meetings

Other

Please provide justification and relevant budgetary details for requested amounts.

In Kind Contributions: describe in kind support.

Indicate if this proposal has received other funding support from any other SCNs.

## 9. Application Instructions

- Submit completed application by the indicated deadline in a pdf document.
- Submit a **condensed CV** of the Principal Investigator(s) (CIHR, or Education/Publications/Grants/Trainees/Evidence of Knowledge Translation over last 5 years)
- Submit all documents electronically to [Naomi.Popeski@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Naomi.Popeski@albertahealthservices.ca)

**Required for submission: (refer to evaluation criteria above)**

- i) Full proposal (no longer than 5 pages in length; 12pt font Calibri and 2.5-cm margins all around) that includes:
  - a) Research proposal background (Please describe the significance of the problem and relevant background information)
  - b) Research question, objectives and methodology
  - c) Describe how the research proposal will contribute to larger funding opportunities.

- d) Describe how the outcomes of the planned research will be sustained long-term and the potential for integration within health care or community settings in Alberta.
- e) Describe how the proposal has the potential to improve diabetes, obesity and nutritional-related care in Alberta (see HQCA six domains of quality: Acceptability, Appropriateness, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Safety, and Accessibility).
- f) Describe the role of each team member in the research study.

Up to 1 additional page may be submitted for each of the following:

- ii) Supporting reference list
- iii) Abstract written in lay language (250 words)
- iv) Budget
- v) You may provide appendices of up to 2 pages (eg. figures, preliminary data)  
\*(additional team member CVs are NOT required)

## 10. Competition Schedule

November 12, 2019	Call for Seed Funding applications
December 23, 2019	Application submission deadline
February 28, 2020	Notification of Awards

Approval of Research Proposal - Signatures (Required)

Principal Investigator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Principal Investigator (if required) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Department Head (or Executive Director) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature from Research Office (or delegate) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for applying to the DON SCN™ 2019/2020 Seed Funding Competition. Please e-mail completed applications (PDF) to: Dr. Naomi Popeski at [Naomi.Popeski@ahs.ca](mailto:Naomi.Popeski@ahs.ca) by 4:00 p.m. (MST) on December 23, 2019.

If you have any questions about this competition, please contact:  
Dr. Naomi Popeski - Assistant Scientific Director, Diabetes, Obesity & Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network  
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