



KPMG Foundation Research Seed Grant Competition (2024-2025)



Island Health acknowledges the homelands of the three Indigenous families on and around Vancouver Island: the Kwakwaka'wakw, Nuu-chah-nulth, 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

- 2 **general** research seed grants of up to \$12,500 each;
- 2 seed grants of up to \$12,500 each 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 through support from the KPMG Foundation.

Competition Timeline

Information Sessions for Applicants (virtual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurs. September 26 (11 - 12 pm): register to join on Zoom • Wed. October 9 (12 - 1 pm): register to join on Zoom
Application Deadline	December 16, 2024 by 4 pm PDT
Application Review	January - February 2025
Notification of Results	March 2025
Award Start-date	May 1, 2025
Award End-date	April 30, 2026

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:
 - Indigenous Health
 - Equity, diversity, and inclusion
 - Mental Health and Substance Use
 - Seniors Health
 - Primary Care Networks and Clinics
 - Home and Community Care
 - Population Health and Health Promotion
 - Under-Resourced Communities and/or people who are unhoused
 - Acute and Ambulatory Services
 - Palliative and End-of-Life Care
 - Care Team Safety and Wellness
 - Virtual and Technology-Enabled Care
 - COVID-19
 - Child and Family, including Maternal Health
4. Projects must address at least one of Island Health's four goals:
 1. Improve experience, quality & outcomes for the people we serve.
 2. Improve the experience, health & wellbeing of all people at Island Health.
 3. Increase value & ensure sustainability.
 4. Improve population health & wellness and reduce health inequities.

Additional Eligibility for Health Equity Projects

In addition to the above general criteria, health equity submissions 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 specific 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, and commit a minimum of \$2000 in the proposed budget to engagement activities and honoraria.

Considerations for Indigenous Health Research Projects

- The Canadian Institutes of Health Research [defines Indigenous health research](#) as:
“... any field or discipline related to health and/or wellness that is conducted by, grounded in, or engaged with, First Nations, Inuit or Métis communities, societies or individuals and their wisdom, cultures, experiences or knowledge systems, as expressed in their dynamic forms, past and present.”



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Indigenous health and wellness research embraces the intellectual, physical, emotional and/or spiritual dimensions of knowledge in creative and interconnected relationships with people, places and the natural environment. Such research is based on the right to respectful engagement and equitable opportunities; it honours culture, language, history, and traditions.”

- Researchers and teams who conduct Indigenous health research, whether they are Indigenous or non-Indigenous, must build and maintain respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples and communities. [Meaningful and culturally safe health research](#) is based on respectful relationships, and requires trust and self-reflection.
- The First Nations principles of ownership, control, access, and possession – more commonly known as OCAP® – assert that First Nations have control over data collection processes, and that they own and control how this information can be used. [Learn more.](#)

Submitting More than One Application

- The same applicant or team may submit two different applications for different projects if the team has the capacity to complete both within the award period.

How to Apply

- Applications for both the general and the health equity grants should be submitted through this [online form](#) by **4 pm PST on December 16, 2024.**
- A [PDF copy](#) of the application form is available.
- 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 these [Resources and Supports](#), and/or email Isabel.Moore@islandhealth.ca
- For teams that require more time or other considerations to complete the online application form, or who are unable to access or submit the application online, email Isabel.Moore@islandhealth.ca for alternatives.

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



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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 or software
- equipment costs over \$5000 or software over \$2000
- costs not directly related to the project
- overhead or administrative costs

Evaluation

- All submitted applications will be screened to ensure they meet eligibility requirements. Ineligible applications will not be reviewed; applications that are ineligible for a health equity award will be reviewed for a general award if they meet those requirements.
- 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 evaluation process (January-February 2025), applicants may be invited to provide more information at the request of reviewers.

Successful Applications

Holding Funds

- Successful applicants may hold their funds at Island Health (managed by the Island Health lead or co-lead) or at a partner institution (managed by that lead or co-lead), and must follow all applicable financial policies at the institution where funds are held. *Note that some eligible award costs may not be eligible within different institutions, and applicants are urged to confirm eligible costs prior to submission.*

Reporting

- Grant-holders must provide progress reports every 6 months. A short narrative update is due October 15; a short narrative update and a financial statement are due May 15.
- Reports will be submitted through an online form. Grant-holders will receive reminder emails and a link to the form one month in advance of the deadline.
- For grant-holders who are unable to complete the online form, a phone or video call can be scheduled at your convenience.

Extensions

- 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.