

Call for expressions of interest

Indigenous Learning Pathways to Prevention Fund

Launch date — September 8, 2017

Step 1. Expression of interest from eligible teams — October 20, 2017

Step 2. Full application deadline — November 10, 2017

Notification of funding — March 2018

Expected start date — On or before May 1, 2018



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Funding Research with Real-Life Impact

What is the Indigenous Learning Pathways to Prevention Award?

Indigenous peoples in Canada are disproportionately affected by HIV and other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBIs). The *Indigenous Learning Pathways to Prevention Awards* is intended to engage Indigenous post-secondary students in developing research projects, programs and services that embody Indigenous ways of knowing to better serve First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. The awards will support Indigenous students in learning about culturally-safe community-based research practices, building future research capacity.

How much funding is available?

Two awards of up to \$30,000 each will be available in 2017-2018. Teams will be notified of their success in March 2018. Funding may be used for up to one year after the agreed upon start date (before May 1, 2018). No more than \$15,000 of this budget may be allocated as salary to the student, with the balance of funds supporting the project's community-based research activities. No more than 20% (\$6000) may be claimed as an administrative fee by the host/partner organization.

What kinds of projects can receive funds?

Each award will support an Indigenous student working with an Indigenous community-based agency to undertake culturally-safe community-based research practices to do one or more of the following:

- Evaluate existing HIV/STBBI programs and services;
- Modify wellness programs currently addressing other aspects of health to include HIV/STBBIs;
- Identify a research question, project, or need related to HIV prevention;
- Identify a research question, project, or need related to culturally-safe treatment, care, and services for Indigenous people living with or at risk of HIV.

Applicants are encouraged to develop projects that:

- have a strong foundation in community involvement
- embrace the traditional and cultural values of the specific Indigenous communities that the program aims to serve
- follow the principles of O.C.A.P (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession) as well as other Métis, Inuit and/or community ethics research guidelines
- follow the principles of the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/index/>) (as appropriate)
- combine Indigenous ways of knowing with western approaches to community-based research, through practices including (but not limited to): sharing circles; storytelling; photo, voice, and arts-based approaches; and cultural or localized traditional research methods.

The student and the community-based agency must develop the initial expression of interest together.

Composition of eligible teams

Projects eligible for this funding program will involve three key partners:

- **An Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit, or Métis) post-secondary student** with a demonstrated interest in Indigenous health. The student may be attending college, university, or another professional training program (example: doula training), and must be actively enrolled as of September 2018.
- **An Indigenous health or community-based agency in Ontario** with a research question or a program to pilot. A supervisor within this agency must be able to maintain active and meaningful involvement with the student and the project.
- **An academic mentor who will support the student** with regard to culturally safe research methodologies and provide guidance on challenges involved in the research. If the student does not have a mentor when applying, the OHTN will help to find one.

How do students express an interest in this opportunity?

Students or representatives of Indigenous community-based agencies must contact Jessica Demeria, Coordinator of Indigenous Research Initiatives at OHTN at jdemia@ohrn.on.ca by **October 20, 2017**. We strongly encourage applicants to express their interest in this opportunity as early as possible, to confirm their eligibility and to increase the time they have to complete the application.

In your email, please provide:

- the names of the community-based agency and student proposed to be part of this project,
- a brief description of the proposed project (a paragraph or two is fine),
- the program and post-secondary institution where the student is enrolled, and
- a brief description of the activities/mission of the community-based partner agency

Jessica will follow-up on this initial contact to arrange a (phone) meeting with your team.

Both the student and a representative of the participating agency must participate in this call.

Following this call, Jessica will confirm your team's eligibility for the award program, and send your team a **complete application form** and the **funding guidelines for this program**. The full application will be due by **November 10, 2017**. Portions of the application must be completed by each of the team members.

Evaluation criteria and review process

All applications submitted to this funding opportunity will go to a review committee comprised of Indigenous researchers, community members, and Elders. The review process may also include assessment of the application by ad hoc members appointed by the Indigenous Research Steering Committee as needed. Proposals will be assessed based on their relevance, feasibility, potential impact, use of Indigenous methods, and their community engagement and commitment.

For any further questions, Jessica Demeria can be reached by phone at 877-743-6486 x2215.