



**AMS Healthcare**  
**Small Grant Program in Compassion and Artificial Intelligence**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**November 22, 2023**

**AMS Background**

AMS Healthcare (AMS) is an Ontario-based charity with a legacy that dates back to 1937 during the prepaid health insurance era. Today, it is a self-funded organization that focuses on two key areas in the healthcare domain: the history of healthcare and medicine; and the transformation of the healthcare system.

The vision of AMS is ***Compassionate, quality healthcare for all Canadians, in a system advanced by technology, innovation, and a rich understanding of our medical history.*** The AMS mission states that ***...our work advances a Canadian healthcare system through innovation and technology while remaining rooted in compassion and our medical history.*** We advance a compassionate healthcare system by investing in leaders, convening stakeholders, supporting research and funding innovative projects. Our work supports and learns from our rich history of healthcare. Since 2012, AMS Healthcare has focused its vision on the concept of compassionate care: supporting healthcare providers, educators, policy makers and system leaders in anticipating, teaching, and instilling a foundation of compassion at the heart of our health system. This is based on the premise that health professionals provide the best care when they can balance human compassion and technical expertise. Our strength is developing health system leadership – leadership grounded in compassionate care. We should also not lose sight of the learnings afforded by lessons of the past – this was affirmed for all in the collective response to COVID. Compassion in the roots of AMS and see technology as the opportunity.

AMS is well known for the Hannah Chairs and Hannah Studentship programs that are offered as part of the history of medicine mandate. Starting in 2011, AMS began the Phoenix Compassion Project with a real focus to understand the concept of compassionate care and to look at the way we educate and prepare healthcare providers in this critical area of care.

Compassionate Care in a Technological World Assumes that healthcare is not immune to the technological change impacting all industries. Technology will transform healthcare in ways we are only beginning to understand and healthcare's readiness to embrace this transformation – and ability to translate technology opportunities into sustainable solutions to the most pressing issues in healthcare – will be the central challenge for practitioners, providers, and policymakers alike. Expectations about compassionate care will also evolve as patients increasingly look for empathy, as well as connectedness, responsiveness, and empowerment to act together to improve health and address illness. AMS believes

that health professionals, educators, researchers and clinicians of all disciplines must seize the opportunity to explore and lead this transformation by deepening our understanding of the various aspects of compassion through the lens of technology and better ensure that technologies are enabling of healthcare's compassionate purpose.

The AMS [website](#) is a great source of background information on the funding programs and the importance of compassionate care. Check out the Funding Opportunities page to learn more about AMS Compassion and Artificial Intelligence funding programs. <https://www.ams-inc.on.ca/funding-opportunities/>. The AMS website also features a series of podcasts on the various dimensions of compassion. <https://www.ams-inc.on.ca/ams-podcast-good-tech-compassionate-healthcare/>. If you would like to understand the types of projects that have been funded in the past, the previous years awardees can be found here:

- <https://www.ams-inc.on.ca/ams-announces-2022-fellows-in-compassion-and-artificial-intelligence/>;
- <https://www.ams-inc.on.ca/ams-announces-2022-compassion-and-artificial-intelligence-grant-awardees/>;
- <https://www.ams-inc.on.ca/ams-announces-2022-history-of-medicine-awardees/>

Finally, check out the first chapter of a e-new book: [Without Compassion, There is No Healthcare](#) which gives a clear description of what is meant by compassion in healthcare.

### **Small Grant Program**

In response to the explosion of disruptive technologies in the healthcare system, AMS began focusing its efforts in 2018 to better understand the impact of digital technologies and artificial intelligence (DT/AI) on compassionate care. This focus is intended to provoke a dialogue on what is going to happen to compassionate healthcare with the introduction of time-saving technologies and what will be the place of humans in a healthcare environment employing AI-driven technologies and the subsequent impact on health and health-related (bioethics, law, etc) disciplines. The gift of time technologies could allow us to be more human, more empathic, more compassionate in the care we give. Compassion and technology are not an “either/or” proposition, technology can potentially enable compassionate care.

The goal of the AMS Small Grant in Compassion and Artificial Intelligence is to generate new knowledge and evidence to advance compassionate care in: the education/training of healthcare professionals; the optimal deployment of disruptive DT/AI technologies in the care environment; changes to healthcare systems as a result of DT/AI technologies; and/or, related fields of research such as ethics, law, etc. Proposals may include development and testing of new ideas, innovation in education or practice, or knowledge translation/policy discussions. Grant applications may also focus on health human resources and the future of work. These foci will be in addition to the ongoing focus on compassion, digital technology, and artificial intelligence.

AMS is hoping to attract applications from the research and health discipline communities as well as from relate fields areas such as computer science, law, ethics, and others to develop a community of expertise in this area.

The total amount available for this funding opportunity is \$240,000, enough to fund eight (8) grants of up to \$30,000 each for up to a maximum of 12-months.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully read the core criteria for the Small Grants found in the Funding Opportunity. These criteria are purposefully crafted to help guide applicants prepare their submissions. Compassion needs to be at the core of the project you are proposing.

Applicants are also encouraged to consider how they can incorporate patient/caregiver partnership and engagement in their projects as either collaborators or advisors. Information regarding patient/caregiver partnership and engagement can be found at the OSSU website. [www.ossu.ca](http://www.ossu.ca)

**Application Details**

Applications must be submitted by email to OSSU, at [ossu@ossu.ca](mailto:ossu@ossu.ca), by **5:00 pm (eastern time), Wednesday February 7, 2024**. Applicants will receive an acknowledgement of your email application within 36 hours from receipt of the grant application.

Please follow the instructions in the Submission Guide for the formatting and document requirements for the application. The core documents for the application are:

- Full Proposal Submission;
- Signature Page;
- Abbreviated curricula vitae (5 pages max) of the PI (NPI);
- Letter of support from the host (sponsor) institution;
- Letters of collaboration from all co-PIs, Collaborators and Partners; and,
- One five-page attachments document.

It is not a requirement that all signatures must appear on one Signature Page. An application may submit multiple Signature pages.

Applicants are asked to provide a brief budget and justification for the award. Please include a budget table similar to the one provided here in your submission.

Applicants may submit additional questions to [ossu@ossu.ca](mailto:ossu@ossu.ca).

AMS Healthcare		
Sample Budget Table for Small Grant Submission		
Budget item	AMS Small Grant costs	Host/Partner contributions
Salary and Benefits - Research Staff		
Salary and Benefits - Trainees		
Honoraria		
Materials, Supplies and/or Services		
Equipment		
Communications		
Travel		
Other (specify below)		
	<i>Specify cost</i>	
	<i>Specify cost</i>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Review Process**

Applications first undergo an administrative review for completeness and eligibility.

Applications will then undergo peer review by an expert panel for Eligibility and Relevance, and Merit:

- 1) Concept of the proposal

- a) Proposal addresses the core criteria of the grant program as described above.
  - b) The significance, novelty and potential impact of the proposed activities.
  - c) Consistency of the proposal with AMS's Mission, Vision, Goals and priorities.
  - d) Likelihood of the proposed activities to broaden knowledge related to DT/AI and compassionate care.
- 2) Feasibility of the proposal
- a) Appropriateness and feasibility of the approaches and methods to be used for the proposed activities.
  - b) Expertise and experience of the applicant and the team.
  - c) Appropriateness of the budget in relation to the proposed activities. (Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate strong partnerships with their host institution and have identified co-funding or in-kind contributions)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Applicant Eligibility

**Q: As a post-doc, would I be eligible for this Small Grant?**

**A:** Post-docs who will complete their training by the beginning of the funding term are eligible to apply to the program. It will be important to include in your application an explanation of how the Small Grant will support your development in relation to the goals and objectives of the program.

**Q: Can you clarify the timelines for an early career researcher given that CIHR has revised the timelines due to COVID?**

**A:** CIHR defines an early career researcher (ECR) is a researcher within five years of the date of their first research-related appointment.

**Q: Are applicants from outside Ontario eligible to apply for this award?**

**A:** As a result of the regulations governing AMS as a charitable organization, we are obliged to focus our funding primarily in Ontario. However, AMS is interested in funding the best projects in this program and have funded applicants from other provinces in the past. You will notice that there is a requirement that applicants be either Canadian citizenship or have landed immigrant status. AMS Healthcare is not able to support projects that occur outside of Canada.

**Q: Would someone with only an MD degree (without a Masters or PhD training) be eligible to apply.**

**A:** The program is focused on developing scholars, researchers and others to lead in this area. Individuals are required to hold either a Masters (health or technology-related discipline) degree or PhD. Unfortunately, the answer is, no.

**Q: The call states that the applicant must have Masters or PhD training, can the Masters degree be in a professional discipline (eg: Masters of Health Administration, Nursing)?**

**A:** Yes, a masters degree in a professional discipline is eligible. You will need to think about the type of leadership development you will be experiencing. Leadership is a focus of AMS. Consider what activities, learning and development that you are going to experience as an individual in order for you to effectively lead and contribute knowledge in this area.

**Q: Can proposals include multiple co-applicants or is it one applicant with multiple collaborators?**

**A:** Small Grant applications may have multiple PIs and co-PIs, however, the application must identify one Nominated Principal Investigator (NPI).

**Q: What does it mean to include a patient/caregiver (person with lived experience) on the project?**

**A:** Applicants are encouraged to include a patient/caregiver (person with lived experience) as a team member on their project. This may include individual/s as advisors and/or a mentor, and most preferably, as co-PI's, partners, and collaborators on the project to provide unique on the ground perspectives and opportunities for engagement.

**Q: In terms of time commitment, how much is expected for this award?**

**A:** There is no specific amount of time required for this award. It needs to be reasonable based on the proposed activities and developmental plan, and the background, environment and discipline of the applicant.

**Q: Is there a minimum amount of release time for this award**

**A:** No minimum amount of release time (time dedicated to the project) is stated. We understand that the cost of release time can vary depending on the discipline you are in (nurse, physician, lawyer, bioethicist, computer science researcher). We will be looking at a reasonable amount of time to complete the proposed activities. This should be indicated as a % of time.

## Eligible Expenses

**Q: What is the value of in-kind supports to this program?**

**A:** While In-kind contributions are not a requirement of the program, they are an important measure of the support that is being provided to the project. CIHR provides some advice on how to value in-kind contributions at: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/3758.html>. Please ensure that the Sponsor letter specifically supports the in-kind contributions stated in your proposal.

**Q: Can partner organizations provide cash or in-kind contributions to the project?**

**A:** Yes. Contributions can be helpful in that they do confirm access to resources needed for the project. Remember to include a letter of collaboration from the partner organization that specifically states the value of the contribution.

**Q: Can the start date be moved?**

**A:** AMS has some flexibility regarding the start date of the award. However, AMS would like to flow the funding before the end of 2024.

**Q: Can AMS Funding be used to support infrastructure costs.**

**A:** AMS funds can not be used to support infrastructure costs.

## Other questions

**Q: Are the review guidelines posted?**

**A:** The Review Panel will be struck with clinical and non-clinical experts representing the diversity of proposals submitted. Standard review guidelines have been prepared for the review panel to use, however, they are not posted on the website. This document and the Small Grant Funding Opportunity contains information about the review process and some important considerations to include in your proposal.

**Q: Can applications request less funding from AMS.**

**A:** Yes. AMS will fund Small Grants of up to \$30,000.

**Q: What kind of projects will AMS funded?**

**A:** Applicants can visit the AMS Healthcare [website](#) to view previously funded awards.

**Q: What can be included in the 5-page attachment?**

**A:** The attachment document can be used to present relevant manuscripts, graphics, tables, figures, and/or survey forms. The attachment can not be used to extend the word limits of the applications.

**Q: Can applicants submit more than one application?**

**A:** Yes. However, applicants may hold only one award.

**Q: If I have submitted to the AMS Fellowship, can I apply to the Small Grant program.**

**A:** Yes. However, applicants may hold only one award.

**Q: How broad is the definition of AI?**

**A:** AMS Healthcare is interested in funding projects relevant to artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and/or digital technologies.

**Q: Can a Health System be compassionate:**

**A:** Yes. Projects may consider how the healthcare system can support compassionate care.

**Q: Must a proposal necessarily use the word “compassion”. What about emotional care or trauma informed care, or other related type terminology.**

**A:** Applicants are encouraged to ensure that the link between the proposed terminology and “compassionate care” is clearly established and defined in the proposal.