



Upcoming Grant Competition: IMPACT - Child Health Awards

Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit

The Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit (OSSU) is a \$100 million initiative funded by the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ministry of Research and Innovation, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) as part of Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) to transform Ontario's Health System through high impact patient-oriented research.

More information about OSSU can be found at: <http://ossu.ca/>

Ontario Child Health SUPPORT Unit

As one of the 12 Research Centres within OSSU, the Ontario Child Health SUPPORT Unit (OCHSU) aims to optimize child health outcomes by enhancing the efficiency, methodological quality, and standards of child health clinical research across Ontario. Through an integrated clinical research infrastructure across pediatric academic centres in the province, OCHSU strives to reduce 'research waste' by providing efficient and innovative clinical research supports and services.

More information about OCHSU can be found at: <http://www.ochsu.ca/>

IMPACT - Child Health Awards

These awards – created to address gaps in priority research areas in child health - are designed to bring together diverse stakeholders – patients, clinicians, researchers, policy makers, knowledge users, industry, and other health sector participants – to develop and implement research activities that will improve child health outcomes and advance the health system. These strategic awards, directly aligned with Ontario's *Action Plan for Health Care*, will support patient-oriented research projects that are **Innovative, Measurable, Patient-oriented, Appropriate, Collaborative and Transformative**.

The aim of the **IMPACT - Child Health Awards** initiative is to fund scientifically excellent, policy-relevant, high impact projects that address areas of major burden in child health. The burden may relate to incidence and severity of patient outcomes, impact on family and caregivers, and/or cost to the health care system. The projects should bring together expertise in child health research with input from patients, families, clinicians, policy makers, health system administrators, knowledge users and industry. Award funding will mobilize multi-disciplinary groups to test interventions, programs, policies, and processes in child health in a way that no single stakeholder group could do so.

Areas of Focus

Proposals that have the potential to produce measurable outcomes in child and youth health in a relatively short time frame (1-2 years) and in three areas of particular interest are solicited:

- o **Prevention:** focus on comparative studies of interventions designed to prevent serious illnesses and/or their complications, including the complications of treatment. The conditions selected should have significant impact on children and youth, their families, and health systems.
- o **High burden child health care in the hospital, community and at home:** focus on comparative studies of the effectiveness of different methods (including policies) of improving the delivery and/or outcomes of care for children with high burden of illness including those requiring complex care. Small numbers of children (<1%) account for 1/3 of child healthcare use. These children often have multiple health-related needs, complex chronic conditions, functional impairment and high resource use. Targeted and integrated interventions should improve health outcomes, reduce the burden of caregiving on families, and decrease health care expenditures.
- o **Child health system integration, sustainability and patient safety:** focus on comparative studies to better integrate the various components of the health system, reduce inappropriate health care and improve patient safety. Inappropriateness is present when there is a gap between evidence and practice – leading to over/under diagnosis and/or over/under treatment of disease.

These priority areas have been established to align with provincial health priorities, as articulated in *Ontario's Action Plan for Health*. http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/ecfa/healthy_change/. The priorities should be examined with recognition of the social, cultural, linguistic and geographic diversity of Ontario.

IMPACT - Child Health Awards LOI Requirements

1. Applicants must propose patient-centered research that will lead to improved health outcomes and/or health system functioning.
2. Projects must involve the Ontario Child Health Support Unit (OCHSU) and at least two other OSSU Research Centres. For more information on OCHSU go to <http://www.ochsu.ca/>. For more information on OSSU Research Centres go to <http://ossu.ca/about-us/research-centres/> or refer to the table at the end of this document.
3. Applicants must describe how patients will be involved in a meaningful way in the design and conduct of the project. (The term “patient” is understood to include patients, caregivers, families and health consumers).
4. Applicants should also highlight other stakeholder engagement, including industry partnership where applicable.
5. Preference will be given to rigorous comparative research, including pragmatic trials and well-controlled observational designs.
6. The project Principal Investigator must be qualified to hold a CIHR grant at an eligible Ontario-based publicly funded institution such as a university, college, hospital or research institute.
7. OSSU funds must be spent in Ontario, with only [Tri-Council eligible expenses](#) allowed.
8. Proposed budgets should be a maximum of \$300,000 CAD total over 2 years.
9. After review, selected LOIs will be invited to submit a full IMPACT - Child Health Award Application.

The IMPACT - Child Health Awards have been developed to **catalyze and build new stakeholder relationships, encourage new research collaboration, put knowledge into action, build capacity in child health clinical research, lead to health system transformation, help create sustainable clinical research infrastructure, and develop new models for child health research.**

Submission Format

The following format must be followed for all submitted applications – excess text will be deleted and not considered in the review process.

- Names and affiliation of Principal Investigator (PI) and up to one Co-PI (*Note: see qualifications for PI and Co-PI above*).
- The title of the IMPACT - Child Health Award project should include the intervention under study, the comparator, the populations and conditions being studied and the methods proposed.
- The body of the LOI must include the research question, background and context, relevance to *one* of the areas of focus listed above, design, methods and analysis, patient engagement plan, knowledge translation plan, preliminary budget and potential OSSU partners (*see table below for list of OSSU Centres; letters of support from OSSU Centres are not required for the LOI*)
- The body of the LOI must be no more than **three (3) pages maximum**; 1-inch margins on all sides, letter sized paper (8.5" x 11"), in portrait format
- 12-point Times New Roman font with standard (non-compressed) character spacing
- Single line spacing
- Page numbers and last name of Principal Investigator in the footer for each page
- In addition, applicants must provide a **Lay Summary** in *200 words or less* of the proposed research in non-technical terms. It must be written in plain language and should be tested for understanding with patients, families or care givers prior to submission.

LOI Submission Deadline

LOI must be submitted electronically to Impact.ChildHealth@sickkids.ca by 5:00 pm EST on November 27, 2015. Applicants will receive confirmation of receipt of their submission by the next business day. French language forms are available on request.

Important Dates

Event	Action	Date
Competition Launch	Call for Letter of Intent (LOI)	Friday October 9, 2015
LOI Submission Deadline	Applicants submit LOI by email: Impact.ChildHealth@sickkids.ca	5pm EST Friday November 27, 2015
LOIs invited for full proposal	Selected PIs notified to submit full research proposal	Monday January 11, 2016
Strengthening Workshop	Support for full proposals	*Wednesday February 3, 2016
Full Proposal Submission Deadline	Applicants submit full research proposal by email	5pm EST Monday February 29, 2016
Award winners announced	Successful PIs notified and awards announced	Thursday March 31, 2016

*Please hold this date should your LOI be successful

Funds Available

Proposed budgets should be a maximum of \$300,000 total over 2 years. We expect to fund 4-5 research projects.

Funds must be spent in Ontario. Only [Tri-Council eligible expenses](#) are allowed. Support for indirect costs will be provided separately and directly to host institutions through the Indirect Costs Program.

Indirect costs are NOT eligible for IMPACT-Child Health Award funding and should not be included in project budgets. Questions regarding the eligibility of specific expenses can be discussed with OCHSU.

IMPACT- Child Health Awards Review Criteria For Full Applications

Following the review of LOIs, selected PIs will be asked to submit a full application, which will be reviewed and adjudicated by an international expert panel. Evaluation of IMPACT- Child Health Awards full applications will be based on:

Scientific Rigor:

- Scientific excellence, whether quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods.
- Demonstration of sufficient scientific merit to ensure that the study goals will be met, including a clear research plan with scientific methods guided (as appropriate) by input from OCHSU, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), Clinical Trials Ontario (CTO), Ottawa Methods Centre and Population Health Research Institute (PHRI) or other OSSU Research centres.
- Quality of the research team based on experience, expertise, and productivity.
- An appropriate research environment sufficient to support the conduct of the project.
- Proposals submitted for pragmatic trials must meet the OSSU/ Pragmatic Trials Working Group requirements:
 - Overall, trials seeking support should be designed as pragmatic trials to inform decision-making and address existing knowledge gaps. These trials should answer important clinical, public health, or policy questions.
 - Trials will usually need to be multicenter, involving multiple recruitment sites in order to obtain sufficiently large numbers of units or participants to obtain reliable results and to enhance the applicability of the results.
 - Where appropriate, study proposals must discuss plans to foster broad stakeholder or community involvement in the project (from research, health systems, patient, decision-maker and stakeholder communities).

Patient-centeredness and Patient Engagement:

- Patients should be involved at all stages of the design and conduct of the projects, including:
 - As project planning team members involved in bringing forward priority issues for research and having input into values and ethical considerations.
 - In designing recruitment strategies (where relevant).
 - In the planning and delivery of knowledge translation and exchange activities.
 - In evaluating the success of the project upon completion.

The following are examples of patient engagement frameworks: Visual Value Model for Patient Engagement (<http://www.cihir-irsc.gc.ca/e/45851.html>); a multidimensional framework for patient and family engagement for health and health care (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) <http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2014/02/quality-field-notes--engaging-patients-improves-health-and-health.html> and INVOLVE from the National Institutes for Health Research <http://www.invo.org.uk/>

Relevance and Potential for Large Health Impacts:

- Does the research question address an important gap in current knowledge and clinical practice?

- Have the outcome and intervention been identified as important by patients (including families, caregivers, health consumers)?
- Is the research likely to improve care and patient outcomes?
- Does the condition create a substantial burden by virtue of its frequency and/or severity?
- Does the current evidence indicate the potential for a substantial benefit of the intervention relative to current practice at both the individual and population level?

High Health System Impact:

- What is the potential impact of this research on the Ontario healthcare system?
- Could the research lead to major change in policy, thus improving practice and patient outcomes?
- Could widespread implementation as result of the research lead to significant cost savings?

Knowledge to Action:

- The extent to which IMPACT - Child Health Award projects would build on and support the knowledge translation and exchange of existing high quality evidence.
- The project should mobilize and promote direct involvement of diverse partners, including patients, clinicians, policy makers, health system administrators, and/or industry decision makers as true partners in its design and undertaking.
- The project should demonstrate that people representing the population of interest will suggest plans for knowledge translation and implementation activities.

Potential for High Return on Research Investment:

- Opportunities to leverage and capitalize on the OSSU platform and expertise of the 12 OSSU centres/networks and other groups with expertise across Ontario by including OCHSU and at least two other OSSU Research Centres. Where appropriate, studies should use ICES data (or other administrative datasets) for outcome determination.
- Consideration of health economic issues, where relevant. Research teams are strongly encouraged to include meaningful engagement with health economists.

Contact Information

For further information or questions regarding the IMPACT - Child Health Awards, please contact:

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OSSU Research Centres and Contact Details

OSSU Research Centre	<u>URL</u>
Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis	http://www.chepa.org/
Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research	http://www.cranhr.ca/
Clinical Trials Ontario	http://www.ctontario.ca/
Health System Performance Research Network	http://www.hsprn.ca/
INSPIRE-Primary Health Care Research Network	http://www.phcresearchnetwork.com/
Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences	http://www.ices.on.ca/
Ontario Brain Institute	http://www.braininstitute.ca/
Ontario Child Health SUPPORT Unit	http://www.ochsu.ca/
Ontario Drug Policy Research Network	http://odprn.ca/
Ottawa Methods Centre and Provincial KTE Network	http://www.ohri.ca/programs/clinical_epidemiology/MethodsCentre/
Population Health Research Institute	http://www.phri.ca/
Women's College Hospital: Women's Xchange	http://womensxchange.womensresearch.ca/