

## Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit (OSSU)

### Request For Proposals: Centre on Aging

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#### SUMMARY

Program:	Centre on Aging
Overview:	OSSU is inviting proposals to fund a research centre supporting patient-oriented research on aging and health in Ontario.
Funding:	\$300,000 for one (1) year
Launch Date:	December 15, 2018
Application Deadline:	January 17, 2019
Anticipated Notification:	March 1, 2019
Funding Term:	April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

#### ABOUT SPOR AND OSSU

Canada's [Strategy for Patient Oriented Research](#) (SPOR) is a national collaboration of federal, provincial and territorial partners dedicated to enhancing the integration of research into care. SPOR was created by the [Canadian Institutes for Health Research](#) (CIHR) to integrate funding, research and expertise to foster evidence-informed health care by bringing innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to the point of care to ensure greater quality, accountability and accessibility. SPOR has several elements through which to achieve its goals, including the provincial and territorial SUPPORT Units and national SPOR research networks. The [Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit](#) (OSSU) will facilitate the implementation of SPOR in Ontario.

Established in 2013, OSSU is a collaboration of 13 leading health research centres, supported by a Coordinating Centre which facilitates, connects and integrates activities across the network. Jointly funded by the Government of Ontario and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the initiative engages patients, researchers, clinicians, policy makers, industry representatives and other health system professionals to implement SPOR within Ontario.

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: CENTRE ON AGING AND HEALTH

Aging is recognized as being associated with increased health and/or disability challenges as well as increased mental health issues brought on by stress, loneliness, isolation, and loss of loved ones and support. As the populations ages, health care systems and supports must be improved to allow accessible and effective care for older adults to ensure that they live well and continue to make important contributions to society.

OSSU is inviting proposals from qualified academic institutions to identify a research centre focused on supporting patient-oriented research into issues of aging and health in Ontario. This new centre will join with OSSU and its 13 Ontario-based research centres to advancing patient-oriented approaches to

health and health systems research and to enhance the uptake of evidence to support better sustainable health care for Ontario.

As a collaborative partner in the OSSU network, the proposed centre is expected to:

- Provide guidance, consultation and/or support to research programs and projects focused on aging using patient-oriented research approaches.
- Expand capacity within the province to support and conduct patient-oriented research in aging (teaching, training and/or research platforms and resources).
- Conduct innovative patient-oriented research to identify and address important gaps in knowledge and clinical practice regarding aging and health.
- Engage with OSSU (its coordinating centre, research centres and research programs) to promote and expand patient-oriented research in Ontario.

## FUNDS AVAILABLE

OSSU will allocate up to \$300,000 for the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Applicants are encouraged to include non-federal agency partner cash and in-kind contributions to expand the impact of the proposed centre.

## HOW TO APPLY

Complete submission must include the following:

- **Workplan** - Using the guidelines provided in the **Program/Centre Workplan Proposal Template**, (*Program\_Centre Workplan Proposal template.docx*), the applicant will submit a 5-page work plan.
- **Letters of Support** - Up to five (5) letters of support from OSSU centers, community representatives and/or patient partners, and contributors can be appended to your submission.
- **Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae** – an abbreviated CV for each centre lead outlining relevant academic productivity, achievements and collaborations covering the most recent five (5) years of academic work.
- **Supplemental materials** – One 5-page electronic file containing diagrams, figures, publications and/or manuscripts directly relevant to the proposal may be appended to the submission.
- **Budget** - Using the budget template provided (*Budget-BFP template – Aging n MH*) provided, prepare a one-year budget for the proposed centre.

While not a requirement of this request for proposals, cash and in-kind contributions that will directly enhance the impact of the centre will strengthen the proposal. Submissions must include a letter of support from any partners detailing the value and use of their cash and in-kind<sup>1</sup> contributions.

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<sup>1</sup> In-kind Eligibility Table (In-Kind Contributions Recognized by CIHR) - <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/3758.html>

All documents are to be converted to portable documents format (\*.pdf) for submission. Proposals are to be submitted electronically (by email) to [ossu@ossu.ca](mailto:ossu@ossu.ca) by 3:00 pm (eastern) on **Thursday, January 17, 2019**. Please include “**RFP – Centre on Aging**” in the subject line of the email. OSSU will send an email to all applicants confirming their submission within 24 hours.

## **REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION**

Submissions will undergo administrative review for completeness before proceeding to review.

OSSU will establish a committee to review complete proposals submitted on or before the submission deadline. Review committee members will assess proposals based on the following criteria:

- Relevance and alignment of the proposed centre and its work to OSSU and CIHR SPOR goals.
- Demonstrated excellence and scientific rigor of the centre’s lead PIs.
- Suitability of the proposed centre’s administrative and governance structure to support patient-oriented research in Ontario.
- Commitment to engage with the OSSU, its centres and the broader SPOR network.
- Feasibility of the proposed workplan.
- Impact of the proposed activities and/or work products.

Review committee recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES**

Applicants are directed to use the following templates:

- Program/Centre Workplan template
- Budget-BFP template

Other resources that may be helpful include:

OSSU	<a href="http://www.ossu.ca">www.ossu.ca</a>
CIHR	<a href="http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca">www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca</a>
PCORI	<a href="http://www.pcori.org">www.pcori.org</a>
INVOLVE	<a href="http://www.invo.org.uk">www.invo.org.uk</a>

## **CONTACT**

Further information about this call can be obtained by contacting John Riley at [johnriley@ossu.ca](mailto:johnriley@ossu.ca).