

RAPID RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING COMPETITION

Request for Proposals

BACKGROUND

The Department of Distributed Learning & Rural Initiatives (DLRI) is pleased to announce our annual **RAPID RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**. We are inviting rural researchers to submit proposals for short-term research and other scholarship projects (program evaluation, medical education projects, reviews, etc.), which are of relevance to improving patient outcomes and general practice in rural communities. Funding in the amount of \$1,000 to \$5,000 per DLRI Rapid Grant is available, and decisions will be made within 2-3 business days upon submission of funding application.

We are asking rural scholars to propose studies/programs that explore innovations, adaptations, or best practices that you have implemented to improve patient outcomes in rural communities. Some scholarship areas to consider include:

- Health and wellness initiatives that you have established, or are interested in establishing
- Rural medical teaching innovations
- Rural medical education research
- Providing credible health information to rural patients
- Establishing support networks with other rural physicians
- Considerations for working with marginalized populations (e.g. Indigenous communities)
- Rural health advocacy and training
- Self-care for rural physicians
- Dealing with trauma/PTSD
- Developing resilience
- Lessons learned that will inform future rural medical education initiatives

We accept the following types of project submissions:

- Rural health research projects are focused on knowledge generation using scientific methods of various kinds. Research projects typically explore a particular set of circumstances such as the impact of an intervention, the experiences of learners and teachers, or synthesizing the evidence on a topic available from scientific literature. Researchers can also use readily available data from public sources or databases (secondary data).
- Distributed medical education (DME) projects are focused on the application of knowledge (such as research findings and research syntheses) to guide changes in educational practice to improve, extend, or refocus a program/initiative. DME projects may include programs in the development, application, and evaluation stages.
- Scholarship projects, such as program evaluations or programs for rural health promotion, are projects that may not have a generalizable outcome but findings of these projects but can help inform clinical practice, promote health initiatives, teaching and medical education.
- Program evaluation projects must have a defined purpose and specific objective(s) to be eligible for this competition. Quality improvement (QI) projects may be accepted on a case-by-case basis depending on the scope and potential impact of the project being proposed.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Investigators with faculty appointment in the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM), University of Calgary
- Residents, students and other trainees at the CSM (*Note: all learners should have a supervisor with a faculty appointment working with them to be the principal investigators (PI) for the project*)
- Members of the DLRI Distributed Medical Education Committee (DMEC) and Senior Education Council

NOTE:

- a. Investigators can submit only one application annually as PI but can participate as co-investigator on other applications.
- b. We encourage applicants to include an educational component in their proposals. This will allow interested undergraduate medical students to volunteer as trainees with your project to gain rural research experience.
- c. We will give preference to rural based physicians, rural based learners, and less experienced educational scholars, as well as those moving into new areas of inquiry, and those without other sources of support for their educational scholarship.
- d. For projects not primarily focused on rural context, we encourage the inclusion of a rural perspective or rural component to be considered.
- e. Research projects involving human participants will need ethical review and approval.

HOW MUCH RAPID RESEARCH GRANT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

Funding requests of up to \$5,000 per proposal will be considered. Awards will be made according to rural focus, scientific merit, relevance, impact and originality of the project, and its contribution to developing individual and collective capacity in educational scholarship. Total award funding available from DLRI is \$15,000.

HOW DO I APPLY?

All applicants for this competition must submit a **Letter of Intent (LOI)** in the form of an abstract proposal (500-750 words, maximum), and a **Budget** with justification for the amount of funding being requested. LOIs will be reviewed by a panel as they are submitted, and decisions will be made within 2-3 business days. Successful applications will be invited to proceed to the full proposal stage. Please include:

- 1. Study Team**

Provide the names of all team members who will be involved in the study and their roles (PI, co-investigator, etc).

- 2. Background/Rationale**

Give an outline of your project. What is the need that your research will address? What will your project deliver or achieve?

- 3. Study objectives**

Describe your research question(s) and/or study objectives. List any hypotheses, if applicable.

- 4. Methodology**

Research projects: describe the methods and appropriateness of these methods to answer the study objectives, what data will be collected, the study sample, the instruments you will employ, and the data analyses.

Innovative DME and other types of projects: describe your implementation and evaluation plans, including data collection and analysis.

- 5. Feasibility**

Describe the members of your research team and how their skills and capabilities will contribute to the study. Also in the Feasibility section, include the total amount of funding requested for this project (a full budget breakdown is not required at this stage). We also require a timeline for your project, listing anticipated milestones (*e.g. obtain ethics approval by January 2025, finish collecting data by October 2025, etc.*).

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION?

DLRI will accept applications effective immediately. The competition will be open until the available funds have been awarded.

Please submit your LOI to dlri@ucalgary.ca

ASSISTANCE

Subject to availability, assistance discussing or developing proposals can be arranged. Please contact DLRI for more information. If you have any questions, please contact DLRI at dlri@ucalgary.ca