

RAPID RURAL RESEARCH FUNDING COMPETITION

Request for Proposals

BACKGROUND

The Department of Distributed Learning & Rural Initiatives (DLRI) is pleased to announce our second annual Rural Health Research Funding Competition. This year, we are inviting rural researchers to submit proposals for short-term research projects of immediate relevance to the COVID-19 outbreak and general practice. Funding in the amount of \$1,000 to \$5,000 per Rapid Research Grant is available, and **decisions will be made within 2-3 business days.**

We are asking rural scholars to propose studies/programs with research questions that explore innovations, adaptations, or best practices that you have implemented in the fight against COVID-19 in rural communities. Some research areas to consider include:

- Transitioning the provision of healthcare services to online or telehealth based formats or platforms
- Providing credible health information to rural patients
- Establishing informal networks to help vulnerable members of rural communities (e.g. wellness checks, meals on wheels, deliveries of groceries or medication, etc.)
- Establishing informal support networks with other rural physicians
- Considerations for working with marginalized populations (e.g. Indigenous communities)
- Precepting in a time of crisis
- Self-care for rural physicians
- Dealing with trauma/PTSD
- Developing resilience
- Lessons learned that will inform future pandemic plans and policies

Please note: Program evaluation projects without a research question are not eligible for this competition.

For this request for proposals we define two kinds of project submissions:

- **Rural health research projects** are focused on knowledge generation through the use of 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, developing or testing theoretical constructs, or examining a recurring topic across a body of research literature.
- **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 should include knowledge synthesis, development, application, and evaluation stages.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Investigators with an academic or clinical appointment in the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) at the University of Calgary
- Residents or graduate students at the CSM (Note: Undergraduate students are not eligible to be principal investigators, but may be included as trainees in the project)
- Members of the DLRI Rural Initiatives Committee and Senior Education Council

* Investigators can submit only one application annually as PI, but can participate as co-investigator on other applications.



** 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.

*** Please note that our rating system 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.

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 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). 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 provide the Letter of Intent in the form of an Abstract (500 words, maximum) using the following headings:

- 1. Background/Rationale**

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

- 2. Research Question(s)**

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

- 3. Methodology**

Research projects: describe the methods and the appropriateness of these methods in answering the research questions, specify what data will be involved, the sample you will study, the instruments you will employ, and the types of analyses you will conduct.

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

- 4. 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).

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
