



RAPID RURAL RESEARCH FUNDING COMPETITION
Request for Proposals

BACKGROUND

The Department of Distributed Learning & Rural Initiatives (DLRI) is pleased to announce our annual Rural Health Research Funding Competition. We are inviting rural researchers to submit proposals for short-term research projects of relevance to improving patient outcomes 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. For this competition, the goal is to utilize the research funding within the 2024-25 fiscal year (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025), so we encourage researchers to apply early.

We are asking rural scholars to propose studies/programs with research questions that explore innovations, adaptations, or best practices that you have implemented to improve patient outcomes in rural communities. Some research 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)
- Precepting and teaching post-pandemic and beyond
- 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 funding call, we define two kinds 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, 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 \$20,000. In order to implement research as soon as possible, successful applicants will be encouraged to complete data collection early as possible. For research projects involving human participants, please note that you will need ethical review and approval.

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 (500-750 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. For research projects involving human participants, please note that you will need ethical review and approval.

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). We also require a timeline for your project, listing anticipated milestones (e.g. obtain ethics approval by March 2024, finish collecting data by May 2024, 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. Our goal is to spend and use up the funds within the fiscal year so **please submit your LOI early 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
