

2017-2019 Developmental Services (DS) Research Grant Fund CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Overview

The objective of the Developmental Services (DS) Research Grant Fund is to support research capacity and innovative initiatives specifically for the Developmental Services sector.

The Fund has been set aside to support knowledge enhancement across the Developmental Services Sector and to foster knowledge translation and exchange that encourages the use of evidence to inform policy development and decision making.

The Fund will provide a maximum of \$400,000 across all funded projects each of two years between October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2019, to support research in priority areas.

The DS Research Grant Fund will support research and innovative initiatives that provide evidence or collect data through a variety of means, including: reviews of literature; research and practice syntheses; meta-analyses; qualitative, quantitative and quasi-experimental research studies; case studies and comparisons; and tests of new initiatives through innovative demonstration projects.

The DS Research Grant Fund may not be used to fund parts of research projects that are financially supported through other sources of funding (e.g., SSHRC).

Eligibility

The intent of the fund is to support improvements in developmental services. Applicants may be researchers from academic or community-based institutions. Collaborative research projects between community and academic partners are encouraged.

Electronic submissions must be submitted by the **July 5, 2017** deadline, with the signature pages to follow by July 7.

Priority Areas

Currently, MCSS is interested in obtaining research proposals that address the following research themes:

1. Criminal justice system and forensic services:

- Identifying the effectiveness of various court diversion programs and preventative supports.
- The identification of individuals with DD in the justice system.

2. Support models/living arrangements/residential models for people with exceptional (i.e., medical and/or behavioural) needs:

- Identifying physical space/design arrangements that best meet the needs of individuals with exceptional needs, along with the outcomes and costs associated with different models.

3. Direct funding:

- Identifying accountability mechanisms to ensure the quality of services purchased.
- Conducting a jurisdictional comparison of funding rates and maximum funding.
- Understanding the advantages and disadvantages of direct versus indirect funding, such as by addressing barriers and enablers; levels of satisfaction; social inclusion; development of support networks; creation of innovative services.
- Identifying mechanisms to support healthy markets for direct funded services.

Timelines

Projects may be either short-term projects that are less than one year in duration or larger projects that are a maximum of two years in duration.

Projects are eligible for funding for a maximum of two years. The amount of funding awarded will be based on the complexity of the project, the number of research questions identified, the duration of the project and the type of research. For example, complex research projects involving experimental, quasi-experimental, or meta-analysis may require more resources and time than brief literature reviews, which may be completed in three to six months.

Knowledge Mobilization and Exchange

All funded projects must identify the products that will be created as a result of the research undertaken, and include a knowledge mobilization and exchange plan that includes a description of proposed dissemination activities to the DS sector throughout the project lifespan. Funded projects are encouraged to work with MCSS staff to organize a presentation through the "Speaker Series" presentations at MCSS or at a forum to be organized by MCSS.

Proposal Submission Process

Applicants may submit one or more proposals; however, separate proposals must be submitted for each project.

Each project proposal will undergo a formal review process and will be assessed based on specific criteria, including its alignment with research themes, scientific merit and methodological rigour, relevance, manageability (in scale and scope), and anticipated benefit for the sector relative to the budget requested.

Completing the Proposal Application

Applicants are required to use the attached template to outline each proposal being submitted.

For projects that are reviews of literature, applicants are required to provide a brief description of their proposed methodology and disciplinary perspective (e.g., psychology, sociology, economics). Include a discussion of the sources of information to be used; methods of accessing these sources; a screening process for inclusion and exclusion; and approaches to analyzing and interpreting the information gathered.

For research studies, descriptions must include a literature review; proposed design and methods; sampling technique and size; measures (including validity and reliability); and planned qualitative and statistical analyses.

Both types of projects require a detailed description of the timelines and a knowledge-mobilization and exchange strategy. Applicants submitting proposals must submit a budget ensuring that they identify costs in the areas of salaries and stipends; materials and supplies; computing and related costs; and any other anticipated expenditures. A justification must be provided for each category. A list of acceptable expenses are outlined in the application form.

Submitting the Proposal Application

All applications must be submitted electronically to **Georgina.Archbold@ontario.ca** by **12:00pm on July 5, 2017**. Late applications will not be accepted.

All signature pages must be received by 5:00 p.m. on July 7, 2017 by mail to the following address:

Georgina Archbold
 Ministry of Community and Social Services
 Policy Research and Analysis Branch
 80 Grosvenor Street, 3rd Floor, Hepburn Block
 Toronto, ON, M7A 1E9

Important Dates

Activity	Date
Launch of DS Research Grant Fund call	May 24, 2017
Deadline for submission of applications	July 5, 2017 by 12:00pm
Internal review of applications	July 2017
Recommendations submitted for approvals	August 2017
Successful and unsuccessful applicants notified	September 2017
Commencement of 2017-19 DS Research Grants	October 1, 2017