

Child Health and Wellness Grand Challenge Catalyst Awards – Round 2

Overview

With generous support from the University of Calgary Vice President (Research) and the Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation, round 2 catalyst funding is now available to the Child Health and Wellness Research community in an open competition. Awards valued at up to \$50K each (“Seedling Awards”) and awards valued at up to \$200K each (“Branch Awards”) are available for multidisciplinary teams to address CHW Grand Challenges.

These Grand Challenge Catalyst Awards are designed to initiate and catalyze research teams to increase competitiveness for larger scale external funding opportunities. Grand Challenge research teams are expected to address one or more of the identified grand challenge areas (*orange boxes in figure below*) and/or overarching approaches to solving these grand challenges in Child Health and Wellness (*blue bars in figure below*).

We anticipate that Grand Challenge Catalyst Awards will:

- launch new areas of research with potential for high reward
- provide opportunities for early career researchers and trainees to gain experience on a multidisciplinary team
- build and strengthen collaborations between researchers and community-based child and youth-focused organizations



Timeline and Registration

Nominated Principal Applicants are required to register their intent to apply (*template table below*) by August 30, 2021 to achri.awards@ucalgary.ca. Teams moving forward to the full application stage will be notified by September 3. Full applications are due September 30, 2021. Seedling Awards are \$50K each, while Branch Awards are \$200K each. All awards are to be used over a two-year period. Full application forms are available here.

Registration Information Template

Proposal Title:
Team Members (please indicate if any team members are from community organizations) Nominated PA: Principal Applicants: Co-Applicants: Collaborators:
Lay Summary:
Funding Stream (Seedling or Branch):

Criteria

- The Grand Challenge Catalyst Awards are designed to initiate and catalyze multidisciplinary research teams to increase competitiveness for larger scale external funding opportunities that will contribute to solving the grand challenge(s).
- Please list team members as one of the following: Nominated Principal Applicant (only one), Principal Applicant, Co-Applicant, or Collaborator
 - A minimum of five Principal Applicants and/or Co-Applicants are required for Branch Awards and a minimum of three Principal Applicants and/or Co-Applicants are required for Seedling Awards. In all cases, teams should include applicants from more than one discipline.
 - A researcher can only be listed as Nominated Principal Applicant or Principal Applicant on one Grand Challenge Catalyst Award application in each category (“Seedling” or “Branch”) in any given round of applications.
 - Involvement of early career researchers and senior research trainees is encouraged.
 - Collaboration with community partners is encouraged.
 - Collaboration with national and international researchers and/or child health and wellness experts is welcomed.
- Proposals should outline contributions of each team member, including a description of relevant expertise.
- Proposals should consider equity, diversity and inclusion principles in the context of the research team as well as the proposed research activities.
- Funds will be held by the Nominated Principal Applicant, who must be a UCalgary faculty member with an active engagement in one of the Child Health and Wellness research programs.
 - Team members (both internal and external to UCalgary) may provide matching fund contributions (cash or in-kind) to increase the value of the award.
- Funds may be used for:
 - Generating critical preliminary data: e.g., pilot lab tests and experiments, access to key data sources, survey development and generation, evidence review
 - This may include sex and gender-based analyses of new and/or existing data
 - Capacity building: e.g., trainees and highly qualified research personnel to obtain preliminary data or develop research tools

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- Team coordination and development: e.g., personnel to bring researchers and stakeholders together and synthesize information
- Creation of career advancement or leadership opportunities for child health and wellness researchers, trainees, care providers, and other stakeholders (utilizing EDI principles)
- Education and training: e.g., workshops and courses for new investigators, trainees, staff, and other stakeholders
- Team grant and program development: e.g., writing support
- Developing partnership with other strategies, including UCalgary's Indigenous Strategy: e.g., consultation and use of resources developed and managed through other strategies
- Fostering community partnerships: e.g., knowledge translation and exchange, compensation for front-line service provider and agency time spent on research
- Minor equipment and technology enhancements

Review Process (see page 6 below for Review Guidelines)

ACHRI staff will coordinate the review process and conduct an initial eligibility review with ACHRI leadership. Full award applications will then be evaluated by reviewers with a broad range of expertise from across UCalgary as well as partner organizations outside UCalgary who do not have any conflict of interest with applicants. Each reviewer will review three or four applications, provide a final score and rank of applications, and provide constructive feedback. Only the top-ranked proposals will be funded.

Expected Outcomes

Catalyst awards are designed to ready teams for a future program proposal to team grant funding opportunities through local, provincial, national, or international funding agencies and partners.

Over the long-term, Grand Challenge research teams will be evaluated for:

- Success in obtaining external funding
- Success of team trainees at all levels
- Career awards and recognition of grand challenge team members
- Peer-reviewed publication of results
- Policy and practice changes, if applicable
- Scale and scope of dissemination and implementation (e.g., presentation of results at national and international meetings; uptake of new care pathways, guidelines, tests, and/or novel interventions in the healthcare system; implementation of a novel screening tool or program in the education system or a community setting)
- Public awareness of research conducted through the grand challenge teams (e.g., public events, workshops, media and social media dissemination)
- Advancing equity, diversity and inclusion within the academy and with partners
- Commercialization activity related to outputs from the grand challenge catalyst awards
- Any other measures that demonstrate return on investment (including social return on investment)

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. *What about community agencies? How can they be involved in a Catalyst Award?*

Community agencies and organizations are welcome to join Grand Challenge teams as either Co-Investigators or Collaborators. Principal Investigators on the application must be UCalgary faculty members. Community agencies are invited to reach out to researchers directly, through existing relationships or through contact information listed on UCalgary webpages. For agencies looking to contribute to a specific grand challenge who do not have an existing relationship with a researcher, please reach out to ACHRI staff at r4k@ucalgary.ca. We will endeavour to connect agencies with potential research partners.

2. *Can funding be used outside UCalgary?*

We expect the majority of catalyst funding to be used at UCalgary. However, there may be situations in which a major component of the proposed work involves health system partnership, community partnership or external collaboration. Use of funds externally will be evaluated within the context of individual proposals.

3. *What if I'm a UCalgary faculty member who is not an ACHRI member? Can I still apply for these awards?*

Yes, you can still apply for Grand Challenge Catalyst Awards. If your application is successful, we will invite you to join the Child Health and Wellness research community by becoming an ACHRI member.

4. *Can I re-purpose a grant that I recently submitted to a tri-council agency to submit as a Grand Challenge Catalyst Award?*

No. These awards are intended to kick-start new ideas, not as a replacement for tri-council funding. Nor are these awards meant to expand an ongoing research project. Catalyst awards are designed to develop research to become competitive for tri-council funding. If you have a proposal that is suitable for submission to a tri-council competition, ACHRI has research support services available to Child Health and Wellness Researchers. Visit <https://research4kids.ucalgary.ca/> or contact r4k@ucalgary.ca for details.

5. *I applied to the first round of CHW Grand Challenge Catalyst Award competition, but was not selected for funding. Can I revise my proposal from round one to apply in this round?*

Yes, you may apply to the round two competition. We may ask for further clarification at the registration stage.

6. *I'm proposing a new collaboration and new idea that is multidisciplinary, but there are less than five team members on our Grand Challenge Catalyst Award application. Can we still apply?*

A minimum of five team members listed as Principal Applicants or Co-Applicants are required for Branch Awards, whereas a minimum of three team members listed as Principal Applicants or Co-Applicants are required for Seedling Awards. Applications with fewer than three team members will not be considered for funding.

7. *What is the difference between NPAs, PAs, Co-As, and Collaborators and who is eligible to apply in these roles?*

The Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA) is responsible for the direction of the project and the coordination of proposed activities, along with the co-principal applicants (if applicable). The NPA assumes the administrative and financial responsibility for the award.

Principal Applicants (PAs) and Co-Applicants (Co-As) share responsibility with the NPA for the direction of activities and may have access to award funds. The main difference between a PA and Co-A is their level of contribution: PAs work with the NPA to direct the project AND contribute to its execution, while co-

applicants contribute to the execution of the project. Team members can be practitioners, policy-makers, educators, trainees, decision-makers, health care administrators, Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers, patients, community leaders, and individuals working for a community organization. Principal Applicants must be considered independent researchers*. Postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows, research associates, and those in similar positions, are not eligible to apply as NPAs or PAs, but they may apply as Co-As**.

Collaborators contribute to the execution of research activities but do not have direct access to grant funds. Collaborators do not need to be affiliated with a Canadian academic institution; they may be affiliated with another Canadian or international organization. Any individual who will contribute to the project is eligible to be a collaborator. Collaborators may include those affiliated with a federal, provincial, territorial or municipal government department or a for-profit organization. Students, postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows, research associates and those in similar positions are eligible to participate as a collaborator**.

*An independent researcher:

- engages in research-related activities that are not under the direction of another individual AND
- has an academic or research appointment that:
 - is in effect by the start date of the award
 - allows the individual to pursue the proposed research project, to engage in independent research for the duration of the funding, to supervise trainees (if applicable) and to publish research results AND
 - obliges the individual to comply with institutional policies on conduct of research, supervision of trainees (if applicable) and employment conditions of staff paid with award funding¹

**If a trainee is listed on a Grand Challenge Catalyst Award application without their research supervisor, indication of support must be provided (e.g. correspondence from their research supervisor (or clinical program director) outlining the supervisor's support of the trainee to apply in the role specified on the application)

8. *How many awards will be available in each round?*

This will depend on the quality and priority alignment of applications received in each category, as well as the number of applications received.

9. *When will funds be made available to successful applicants?*

Our goal is to have funds available for use as soon as possible following award notification. The ACHRI team will work with the NPA to set up a project under ACHRI as the department.

10. *How should these awards be acknowledged in presentations and in print?*

Award acknowledgement depends on the source of the award. Some awards come from the **UCalgary VPR Fund**, whereas other awards have been generously provided by the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, namely the **Research Excellence Award** and the **BMO Research Award in Healthy Living**. Successful applicants will be notified of the source of award funding and acknowledgement guidelines.

11. *Will the research team need to provide a report at the end of the award?*

Yes, reporting is required for all awards, reflecting the expected outcomes and metrics outlined in the award application. Some awards may require annual reporting. Specific reporting expectations will be communicated when successful applicants are notified.

¹ Definitions of team member roles and independent researchers were adapted from the [New Frontiers in Research Fund competition](#).

PROPOSAL REVIEW GUIDELINES

Reviewer requirements:

- Reviewers assigned to each award will be selected based on:
 - Relevant expertise
 - Lack of conflict of interest (indicated through 'Conflict of Interest Declaration' on reviewer form)
- Reviewers will provide **constructive** feedback on the proposals for applicants.

Focus of review:

1. Concept, Alignment and Future Sustainability (40%)

- Is the idea new/innovative?
- Is the rationale clearly articulated (includes description of need/gap)?
- Are the aims well-defined?
- Does the proposal address one or more [grand challenge or approach](#)?
- Does the proposal align with the with the [CHW strategy](#)?
- Is there potential for this work to lead to a team grant application and/or end-user uptake?

2. Feasibility (60%)

Approaches and Methods (30%) - to assess the quality of design and plan

- Are the approaches and methods appropriate to deliver the proposed output(s) and achieve the proposed impact?
- Are there any 'fatal flaws' of the chosen approach?
- Are the timelines and related metrics/deliverables realistic?
- If appropriate, does the proposal include a plan for sex and gender-based analysis?
- Is there a clear pathway to impact children and families?
- Does the proposal address equity, diversity and inclusion?

Expertise, Experience and Resources (30%)

- Do the applicants bring the appropriate expertise and experience to deliver the proposed outputs and achieve the proposed impact?
- Is the team multidisciplinary?
- Is there a demonstrated level of commitment from the applicants?
- Is the environment appropriate to conduct and enable the success of the project (i.e., are necessary infrastructure, facilities, personnel, equipment available)?
- If community involvement is relevant, have appropriate community partners been engaged?
- If external collaboration is proposed, is the collaboration appropriate and feasible?

3. Budget Assessment

- Is the requested funding appropriate to support the project?
- Is the budget realistic and well-justified, taking into account other funding sources?

4. Community Reviewer Considerations (*only for applications with community team members*)

- How feasible and appropriate is the proposed community partnership?