Vancouver
CoastalHealth
Research Institute

HEALTHIER
LIVES
THROUGH
DISCOVERY

2020 COVID-19 Research Fund
Competition Guidelines

The COVID-19 Research Fund is to support innovative research projects directly related to COVID-19 that are led by health care professionals and researchers at Vancouver Coastal Health.

Purpose

The COVID-19 Research Fund aims to support innovative research with the potential to have a swift impact on evolving clinical challenges related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Where appropriate, proposal should demonstrate coordination with clinical services and alignment with clinical needs by addressing current priorities:

- Expanding clinical research (e.g. clinical trials)
- Support for core clinical research (e.g. biobanking)
- Social and mental health aspects of COVID-19
- Data science

Funding Partners

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute is partnering with VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation to administer the COVID-19 Research Fund.

Deadlines

Application submission deadline: Friday May 1st by 12:00pm (PST).

Eligibility

Awards are open to VCH clinicians and/or researchers involved with patient care and/or research located at VGH, UBC Hospital, Richmond Hospital, Lions Gate Hospital, or G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre.

Please contact the VCHRI Internal Awards team if you are unsure if you meet the eligibility requirements. VCHRI reserves the right to declare applications ineligible.

Principal Investigator eligibility (must meet both criteria):

- Hold a PhD or a MD and/or be a VCH health care professional
  **Note: Medical residents, research associates, post-doctoral fellows, clinical/research fellows, and research scientists are not eligible for this competition
- Conduct most of your work at one or more VCH site(s).
  **Note: If you are working at Lions Gate Hospital or Richmond Hospital, your project is eligible, subject to funding restrictions.
  **Note: Casual employees are not eligible to apply

Co-Investigators: Co-investigators may include other individuals as appropriate for the project being proposed. Where appropriate, projects with co-investigators at other hospital sites demonstrating coordinated efforts are encouraged. There is no set number of co-investigators for a project. It is expected that individuals listed as co-investigators will also contribute to the intellectual content of the research project.

Award Amount and Duration

The COVID-19 Research Fund is a total of $150,000 and is expected to provide funds for **4-6 projects** with a maximum duration of 12 months.

Funding and Eligible Expenses

- The maximum budget amount does not include in-kind contributions e.g. staff support, use of space and other resources etc.
- Projects must be able to be completed within one year of receiving the funds. Unused funds are to be returned to VCHRI.
- Awards are non-renewable.

Eligible expenses:

Compensation Related Expenses

- VCH health care professionals: release time IS AN eligible expense within the budget, to a maximum of 50% of the total budget. Note: All potential release time arrangements must be approved by your supervisor/ manager before submission.
  Exception: if you currently hold a VCHRI salary award, you cannot request additional release time
- Research Staff salaries

Equipment, services and supplies

- Research equipment, services and supplies are eligible.

Knowledge Translation

- Conference, education, and presentation activities related to the project are eligible, including associated travel costs.

Participant Honorarium

- Costs associated to support research participants are eligible.

Review and Evaluation Process

Review Committee

The selection committee's review and discussion will focus on how your project meets the following criteria:

- The applicant/team's research experience and productivity including the appropriateness of each team member and their role(s),
- The rigour of the research proposal, including the importance and applicability of the project to addressing the clinical challenges related to the COVID-19 at VCH
- The feasibility of the project within the timeframe and budget.

Full Application Details

Applications must include the following sections:

1. Grant Cover Sheet (signatures to be obtained after funding notification)
2. Program/Dept Manager Statement of Support (required for all VCH health care professionals; signatures to be obtained after funding notification)
3. Research Proposal (2 page maximum)
4. Research Module
5. VCHRI Biosketch (required for the PI, Co-PI, and all co-investigators)

Applications

Information: https://www.vchri.ca/covid-19-research-fund-full-application

Approvals

Notification of awards will occur by May 8, 2020. Funding will be made available as of May 11, 2020. After May 11, 2020, funds will be released to the successful applicants as soon as the required ethics and VCH approvals have been obtained. Applicants are urged to request ethics approval as soon as they have received notice of funding, since projects must be initiated before July 1, 2020. **Funding will not be available after this date.**

Outcomes and Reporting

A final project report is required at the end of the grant. VCHRI and its partners use these project reports to publicize research activities and to evaluate the impact of the program. VCHRI may request periodic financial statements with approved signatory from your employer for auditing purposes.

Contact Information

Amanda Chisholm
Manager, Internal Awards
Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute
education.award@vch.ca