Vancouver CoastalHealth Research Institute

Team Grant Awards
2027 Competition Guidelines

The Team Grant Award supports health research that improves clinical practice and engages health care professionals, staff and clinicians to lead research that builds capacity across Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and Providence Health Care (PHC).

Purpose

The Team Grant supports applied health, community based, and/or patient-oriented research that improves clinical practice within VCH/PHC. VCH/PHC health care providers collaborate with experienced researchers who will mentor them through the entire research process, from proposal to project completion.

Funding Partners

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) partners with VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation, Providence Research (PR), and Organ Donation and Transplant Research Foundation (ODTRF) of BC.

- ODTRF is partnering with VCHRI and PR to fund two highly ranked awards, one at VCH and one at PHC, related to organ donation and solid organ transplantation with a patient-oriented research approach.

Deadlines

Registration is mandatory for this competition.

- Registration deadline: Monday November 16, 2026 by 4:00pm (PT)
- Grant Information Session (recommended): Date- TBD
- Patient-Oriented Research Workshop (recommended): Date - TBD
- Application submission deadline: Monday February 22, 2027 by 4:00pm (PT)

Complete applications must be received via online submission link by the times specified or they will not be accepted. Notification of results will be available in late spring 2027

Research Team Eligibility Criteria

Please contact the VCHRI Internal Awards team if you are unsure if you meet the eligibility requirements.

Principal Investigator (PI): You are eligible to be the PI on an application if you meet all of the following criteria. The PI:

- Must be a physician* or clinical health care professional (e.g., nurse, OT, PT, dietician, SLP, counsellor, mental health worker, etc.) in a permanent position and have been employed with VCH/PHC for at least one year.
  - Casual, contract or consulting staff are not eligible for this competition.
  - Medical residents, clinical/academic research fellows, academic researchers are not eligible for this competition.
  - *Physicians may be on a medical contract with VCH/PHC and have credentialed medical provider or active hospital privilege status.
- Physicians and clinical health care professionals must conduct the majority of their clinical and/or research work at VCH/PHC sites (equivalent to >0.5 FTE).
  - BCCA, BCCDC, PHC, or PHSA sites or medical offices are not considered VCH/PHC sites.
- has **not** held (or currently holds) external peer-reviewed research funding as the principal investigator or co-principal investigator. Funding from VCH/PHC, UBC, other health authorities, educational institutions or affiliated research institutes/centre are **not** considered external research funding.

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- does **not** hold any of the following university appointments at any academic institution: assistant professor, associate professor, professor, clinical associate professor or clinical professor.
    - Clinical assistant professor, clinical instructor, and other appointments are acceptable.
- has some research training and experience (e.g., completed research-based Master's degree, co-investigator on previous research projects).
- has identified an experienced researcher who agrees to be your Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) and actively mentors you throughout the course of the project from proposal development and application submission to implementation and completion of the project.
- does **not** have an outstanding final report from past VCHRI internal award competitions.
- is **not** the PI/Co-PI on a currently funded VCHRI Team Grant.

Note: For non ODTRF related projects, if you are a PHC physician or health care professional, only projects in collaboration with VCH are eligible. Collaborations are considered a VCH site for data collection, direct VCH impacts of the project, and co-investigators within VCH.

Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI): The Co-PI must be an experienced researcher who is actively conducting their own research. The Co-PI is not only part of the investigator team, they also agree to contribute as a mentor to the PI during the duration of the project, from registration and application to project completion. The Co-PI:

- must have appropriate research experience and an independent program of research. It is recommended the Co-PI have active research funding within the last 2 years, and a track record of holding external peer-reviewed funding. This research experience will be evaluated by the review committee based on the information contained in the Biographical Sketch and Research Module.
- can only be a Co-PI on one application per competition cycle.
- can be from any organization. The expectation is that the PI and Co-PI will work together to design and implement the project.

Co-Investigators: individuals contributing to a grant application and carrying out the research project. It is expected that individuals listed will contribute to the intellectual direction of the research or research-related activity, play a role in the conduct of the research or research-related activity, or have some responsibility for aspects of the research. The maximum number of Co-Investigators is **six** for a project. All co-investigators are required to submit a biosketch.

Collaborators: individuals contributing to carrying out the research project. These individuals may contribute to the grant application, inform the intellectual direction of the research or research-related activity, play a role in the conduct of the research or research-related activity, or have some responsibility for aspects of the research. There is no maximum number of collaborators for a project. Collaborators are *not* required to submit a biosketch

Research Project Eligibility Criteria

- Projects must address important practice-based research questions and/or patient-oriented research, so the results can be directly applicable to the provision of care/service at VCH/PHC.
- The intent of this competition is to support new projects, and not to provide additional funding for existing and/or larger projects. For that reason, all successful projects must have a separate REB approval. **Adding the project as an amendment to another existing REB approval is not acceptable.**
- Multi-organizational projects, where VCH/PHC is one 'site' on the project are not eligible.

Designated Awards

Two awards (one at VCH, and one at PHC) will be designated for projects related to patient identified research priorities in organ donation and solid organ transplantation. **Note:** to be eligible for the designated ODTRF grant, the practice-based research project must 1) adopt principles of patient-oriented research, 2) clearly describe how patient partners are meaningfully engaged as active members of the research team, and 3) applicants must complete the patient engagement module.

One award will be designated for a primary investigator who is clinical health care professional (e.g., nurse, OT, PT, dietician, SLP, counsellor, mental health worker, etc.). **Note:** to be eligible for the designated award, applicants must self- identify at time of registration.

Funding and Eligible Expenses

- Proposals will be considered for a maximum of $30,000 for operating expenses, plus a top up of $1,000 for patient-family partner honorariums (if applicable). Projects must be able to be completed within 18 months of receiving the funds. Unused funds are to be returned to VCHRI/PR. Awards are non-renewable.
- Projects must be completed within the $30,000 maximum budget as matching/partner funding is not allowed; however, the maximum budget amount does not include in-kind contributions (e.g. staff support, use of space and other resources etc.).
- Teams can request an additional $1,000 to cover patient-family partner honorariums. These funds will be held in a separate cost centre managed by VCHRI.
- This project must not be started yet as funding is to support new projects.
- Please refer to the application instructions for detailed description of eligible expenses.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary selection committee, including patients. Applicants should therefore explain the proposed research clearly and define discipline specific terms used. Assume that the topic of your project is completely new to the person reviewing your grant.

Applications will be assessed based on:

- strength of the PI/co-PI's research and healthcare practice experience to guide the project; the appropriateness of each team member and their roles; key collaborations outlined, and letters of support included (if applicable); the team's capacity to do the proposed work.
- rigour of the research proposal; importance and applicability of the project to the provision of healthcare/service at VCH/PHC; feasibility of the project within the timeframe/budget. This includes consideration to equity, diversity and inclusion, and involvement of or impact on Indigenous Peoples, communities, lands or partnerships within the research.
- patient engagement (if applicable); description of project in lay summary, accessible language, a clear and concise description of engagement, such as roles, methods, and strategies that will be used.

Approvals

Notification of awards will occur in spring 2027. Funding will be made available as of September 1, 2027. After September 1, 2027, funds will be released to the successful applicants as soon as the required ethics and VCH approvals have been obtained. It is strongly encouraged applicants request ethics approval as soon as they receive notice of funding, since projects must be initiated before December 31, 2027. **Funding will not be available after this date.**

Outcomes and Reporting

Annual and project end financial reporting is required. A final project report is also required at the end of the grant. VCHRI and its funding partners use the project reports to publicize research activities and to evaluate the impact of the program. VCHRI may contact you at other times for funding program evaluation purposes.

Contact Information

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