

Addiction and Mental Health Integration Network 2023-2024 Patient Engagement Grant

The Addiction and Mental Health Integration Network (AMHIN) will make available up to 5 Patient Engagement Grants to support researchers incorporating meaningful patient engagement in research projects in Addiction & Mental Health. Patient engagement in research that fits within the identified priorities of PAMH will be given priority (Child and Youth Mental Health; Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction; Care for Underserved Populations; Improving Access to Services and Continuity of Care; Virtual Health Services); however, AMHIN values patient engagement in all Addiction & Mental Health research in Alberta. Up to 5 awards of up to \$1,000 each will be offered. Preference will be given to projects that incorporate patient engagement as a collaborative process vs. consultative.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The area of research must be related to Addiction and/or Mental Health.
2. The principal investigator (PI) must be affiliated with an Alberta-based academic institution, or be clinical staff (physician, nurse, scientist) at Alberta Health Services, or its affiliates.
3. PI's may only hold a single patient engagement grant per research project but may receive grants for different projects within their research program.

Funding Eligibility:

Funding may be requested for:

- Salary support for patient representatives.
- Patient engagement operating expenses, including catering for meetings the patient representatives are attending.
- Expenses for travel that are essential for engagement.
- Other expenses will be considered but must be justified.

Funding will **NOT** be provided for:

- Previously incurred expenses: funding will not be provided for expenses incurred prior to implementation of the grant.
- Institutional overhead.
- Investigator salaries.
- Legal or patent fees, membership fees, academic fees, or secretarial support.

Review and Evaluation of Applications:

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated on a rolling basis. Applications considered eligible for funding will be independently assessed by two reviewers and evaluated based on three assessment criteria using a 5-point scale:

- 1) Level of patient engagement (based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Engagement from iap2canada.ca)
 - **Inform:** To provide patients with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, and/or solutions
 - **Consult:** To obtain patient feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions
 - **Involve:** To work directly with patients throughout the process to ensure that their concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered
 - **Collaborate:** To partner with patients in every aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution
 - **Empower:** To place final decision-making power in the hands of patients

- 2) Proposal merit:
 - Innovative and original idea(s)/objectives.
 - Well-written and focused proposal.
 - Comprehensive, relevant performance metrics that can be used at the end of the first year (and any subsequent years) of funding.
 - Feasibility and viability of project, including consideration of budget costs and sustainability plan.

- 3) Investigator experience:
 - Experience and skills of the project team – academic track record; historical productivity and impact; likelihood that this team can complete the project being proposed; time and availability to commit to the project, collaborative arrangements with colleagues if applicable.

Proposals scoring higher than 10.5 out of a possible 15 points will potentially be eligible for funding.

Descriptor	Assigned Score
Outstanding	5

Very Good	4
Good	3
Fair	2
Poor	1

Reporting Requirements

The PI will be expected to submit a final report (2 page maximum) within one month of completing the patient engagement activities. This report will include reporting patient engagement activities performed, summary of the impact on the research project, dissemination activities (e.g., presentations, manuscripts), and how the results of the Patient Engagement grant have informed future grants and research projects. A report template will be provided. We hope that the Patient Engagement grants will allow investigators to meaningfully include patient perspectives in further grants for larger provincial, national, or internal competitions.

Application Process

Applications must be emailed to Applied Research and Innovation. They will be accepted throughout the year. Incomplete applications will be returned to the candidates. Completed applications can be submitted to the AMH Research Hub (e-mail address: amh.researchhub@ahs.ca).

The Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs) and Provincial Programs are collecting information to understand the demographic diversity of the applicants to our Scientific Office funding competitions. All SCNs and Provincial Programs are participating in this learning initiative. The data are anonymous; will not be linked to individuals; and will not be available for, or used in, determining the outcome of funding competitions. Further information is provided within the survey preamble. Please follow the link below to the survey: <https://redcap.albertahealthservices.ca/surveys/?s=M78XHMM4KT4HWDTW>

Please indicate with your submission that you have completed the demographic survey.

Those who are awarded funds will be asked to complete a separate awardee demographic survey.

Patient Engagement Grant Application Form

Project Name:
Principal Investigator (PI) Name:
PI contact information (email and/or phone number):
PI institutional affiliation and positions held:
Date:

1. Please provide a brief description of the project you are proposing:
2. Please provide a description of how you will involve patients in your proposed project:
3. Please provide an overview of how you will use this funding and what it will support or impact:
4. Please outline your research team for the project, level of experience, and feasibility to complete your project. Include a project timeline for when this funding will be allocated:

Completed applications can be sent to: amh.researchhub@ahs.ca