

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Indirect Impacts of COVID-19

About the Program

Historically, Public Health Ontario’s (PHO) Locally Driven Collaborative Projects ([LDCP](#)) program has brought together public health units – along with academic and community partners – to collaboratively design and implement applied research and program evaluation projects on important public health issues of shared interest.

The goals of the program are to:

1. Foster the development of collaborative partnerships among health units and other stakeholders.
2. Increase the capacity of public health units (PHU) to implement applied research and evaluation projects that are scientifically sound and feasible, and produce relevant knowledge for the public health system.
3. Strengthen and sustain knowledge transfer among health units and between health units and other stakeholders.

Priority Areas

To continue to facilitate timely public health unit research and evaluation activities, as well as to inform future pandemic preparedness and response, PHO’s upcoming LDCP funding will continue to be used to support projects focusing on one of the following priority areas related to indirect impacts of COVID-19.

Project teams will be eligible for up to \$125,000 each in funding for their projects to be completed by March 31, 2024. Please note that funding amounts may be based on a negotiation process.

Priority Area	Examples of Projects
<p>Priority 1: Public health innovations</p> <p>Projects must focus on the evaluation of a COVID-19 innovation, continuous quality improvement, or research to scale up existing innovations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • virtual inspections, virtual client services • food history collection via online order services • managing outbreaks, case and contact management • online/hybrid policies, office environments • work from home and domestic violence • delivery, monitoring and evaluation of interventions/programs launched during the pandemic • enhancing leadership and risk communication strategies to build trust in public health and scientific knowledge • social media in public health • situational snapshots and dashboards

Priority Area	Examples of Projects
<p>Priority 2: Public health programs and interventions impacted by the pandemic</p> <p>Projects must focus on understanding the impact of reduced public health services, programs or strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes to public health inspections (food safety, water quality, infection prevention and control, environmental and occupational health and safety) • changes to, and impacts of, programs, interventions, and services related to chronic and infectious diseases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delays in procedures, treatments, immunizations • delayed/missed medical assessments/treatments/missed public health clinics • greater need for dealing with impacts of pandemic (increase in alcohol consumption) • changing priorities and re-allocation of resources • changes in individuals abilities to respond to pandemic impacts due to changes in access to key social determinants of health (e.g., housing, employment, etc.)
<p>Priority 3: Understanding pandemic impacts on mental health</p> <p>Projects must focus on understanding pandemic impacts on mental health, including harm reduction and prevention in substance use, and may consider specific populations. Projects may also focus on understanding and/or strategies related to pandemic mental health impacts for the public health workforce.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall/disproportionate impacts on specific populations including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children (school disruption, social isolation, daycare and recreational activity interruptions, social development issues, trauma) • seniors (loneliness and isolation, fear of illness, increased risk of falls/injuries) • low-income, and/or socially marginalized • workforce burnout • actions to address public mental health during pandemic recovery

Anticipated Deliverables

The aim of this funding is to foster initial research/evaluation opportunities that will contribute to the overall knowledge base of unintended impacts of COVID-19 in Ontario. Final deliverables may include a published resource (e.g., report, presentation, checklist) that can be shared with other PHUs or public health system stakeholders or findings that can serve as the foundation for future research or resources.

Who can Apply

In order to be eligible for funding, you must meet the following criteria:

- be led by a PHU, in cooperation with at least one other PHU as a co-applicant
- work in meaningful collaboration with local academic and/or community organizations
- meaningfully engage at least one student
- promote health equity
- address a public health issue within the identified priority areas of COVID-19 indirect impacts
- involve research and/or program evaluation activities
- create knowledge that is transferable across the public health system, and share that knowledge by developing and implementing a knowledge exchange plan

Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be evaluated for scientific merit, feasibility, potential impact, and alignment with one of the three priority topic areas. Proposals are evaluated through the following review process:

1. **Screening:** PHO staff assess proposals to ensure that they satisfy basic eligibility criteria.
2. **Internal and External Reviews:** Proposals that are deemed suitable in the screening process proceed to in-depth review and scoring by PHO staff and external partners who comprise research methodology and subject matter experts.

How to Apply

1. Download the [complete application package](#), which includes:
 - Pre-Applications Resources:
 - Call for Proposals
 - Pre-submission Intake Form (optional)
 - Application Resources:
 - Project Charter (Funding Application)
 - Guidance resources to support filling out your application:
 - Tip Sheet: Project Proposal Development
 - Project Teams and Knowledge Users (Section 1.0)
 - Project Information and Plan (Section 2.0)
 - Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Plan (Section 3.0)
 - Acceptable Use of Funding (Section 6.0)
2. Complete the Project Charter document (Section 1.0 through Section 8.1).
3. Submit your Project Charter, as your funding application, in Word format by emailing it to ldcp@oahpp.ca by **Friday, May 12, 2023 at 5 p.m. ET**.

Optional LDCP Project Pre-Submission Intake Form

Prospective teams are invited to request preliminary feedback from PHO’s LDCP Program Facilitator on their project proposals prior to submission (not mandatory). If your team is interested, please submit a completed version of the [LDCP Pre-Submission Intake Form](#) to ldcp@oahpp.ca by **Friday, April 21, 2023 at 5 p.m. ET**. Kindly note, submitting this form does not guarantee that your team’s funding request will be granted.

Key Dates and Timelines

Date	Project Timeline
Friday, April 21, 2023 at 5 p.m. ET	Deadline to submit optional LDCP Pre-Submission Intake Form
Friday, May 12, 2023 at 5 p.m. ET	Submission deadline
July 2023	Project acceptances sent
July 2023 – March 2024	Funded project period

If you have any questions about the program or application process, contact LDCP@oahpp.ca.