Fall 2026

Health Professional-led Research/Evaluation Funding

The purpose of the Health Professional-led Research/Evaluation Funding is to develop patient-oriented research and evaluation capacity amongst health professionals and to enable the creation of learning cycles in health and social care in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Tenure and Value of Award

Funding will be available to successful applicants starting in January 2027. The value of this award will be up to $10,000 per project. The length of this award is one year. Projects must conclude and all funds must be spent prior to February 29, 2028.

We highly encourage the evaluation of patient/public engagement in all work funded by NL SUPPORT. Please review Learning Together: Evaluation Framework for Patient and Public Engagement (PPE) in research for information about indicators to consider when evaluating patient/public engagement. Following completion of the research/evaluation project, we will ask all members of the project team to report on patient/public engagement using a standard survey to outline how people with lived/living experience were involved in the project.

Eligibility

The purpose of the Health Professional-led Research/Evaluation Funding is to encourage clinical staff to conduct research/evaluation, preferably on an issue they have identified through their clinical work. Applicants must therefore be clinicians or other health professionals working actively in clinical roles within a research, health or community care institution in Newfoundland and Labrador. **Applicants who are not eligible to hold funding themselves must nominate a Co-Applicant who is eligible to hold funding at an eligible institution**. Award funds are not intended to supplement the salary of the Study Lead or Co-Lead. If you are unsure of your eligibility, please contact our team at funding@nlsupport.ca.

Selection Criteria

Applications for Health Professional-led Research/Evaluation Funding will be judged according to the following selection criteria by a selection committee comprised of NL SUPPORT/Quality of Care NL staff, health professionals and patient/public partners:

- Incorporation of people with lived/living experience as partners rather than subjects throughout the project's lifecycle

- Expertise and research experience, and past contributions to patient-oriented research and/or related fields
- Merit of the proposal, based on:
    - Potential for meaningful real-world outcomes and application to a learning cycle component of the Learning Health and Social System in Newfoundland and Labrador
    - Quality and clarity of research/evaluation question
    - Originality
    - Potential contribution to growing the culture of patient-oriented research in Newfoundland and Labrador
    - Scalability of the proposed work (i.e. the potential ability to reliably expand this work to a larger population or more settings without sacrificing quality)
    - Relevance to health-related decision-making
    - Systems improvement or positive patient/public impacts
    - Value to the health/social care system
    - Considerations for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity and Sex and Gender-Based Analysis Plus (IDE/SGBA+). For more information about IDE/SGBA+ in research, please visit our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) toolkit and CIHR's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Research System and Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)
- Clarity of presentation and appropriateness of design and research/evaluation plan
- Feasibility of the proposed work
- Appropriateness and justification of the budget

Decisions will be made by a majority vote and will be communicated to applicants via email.

How to Apply

Please submit your application package in an electronic format (PDF, Microsoft Word) to Georgia Skardasi (funding@nlsupport.ca).

We will send an email acknowledging receipt of your complete application within five business days following the competition deadline. If you do not receive this email, please contact Shanna Goobie (sgoobie@mun.ca).

Please use the subject title: **Health Professional-led Funding application – Name of study lead, date submitted.**

Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Newfoundland Time on October 20th, 2026.

Memorial University applicants should contact their academic departments regarding internal deadlines. Applications must be approved by the applicant's faculty/school prior to submission. Please consult the list of Grant Facilitators & Research Officers at Memorial to determine who to contact regarding internal deadlines, if you do not know who to contact. Please ensure you contact your faculty/school for approval well in advance of the submission deadline. Applications that have not been approved by your faculty/school, are late, or incomplete will not be accepted.

Please Note:

- Applicants will be informed via email whether their application was successful or not

- Grant funds will be released only upon the receipt of a **letter of approval from the appropriate ethics review committee, when ethics approval is necessary**. **If your project involves and/or impacts Indigenous groups, peoples and/or lands, award funds will not be released until proof of community approval is submitted.** Please consult Memorial's Policy on Research Involving Indigenous Groups for more information. If you are unsure of what approvals you require, please reach out to our team at funding@nlsupport.ca.

- Once an application has been funded, changes in the project design will require prior approval from NL SUPPORT/Quality of Care NL

- Funding will be issued by way of Letter of Agreement issued to the Host Institution

- Project teams can only hold one Health Professional-led Research/Evaluation Funding from NL SUPPORT at a time

- Successful projects will be required to join and provide updates to the NL SUPPORT/Quality of Care Learning Health and Social System Committee, which meets once every two months

For further information or clarification on the application guidelines, please contact our team at funding@nlsupport.ca.

Application Package Checklist		
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Part 1: Research/Evaluation Team

Study Lead	The study lead is the person responsible for the project. The study lead for the Health Professional-led Research/Evaluation Funding should be a health professional working actively in a clinical role. Please include the Study Lead's job title and email address. Please refer to the ***Eligibility*** section on Pages 1 and 2 for more information.
Study Team	It is expected that research will be conducted by multi-disciplinary teams in collaboration with all knowledge users, where patients/people with lived experience, researchers, and health professionals work together to contribute to improved and sustainable health systems and outcomes. Please list the names, job titles (where relevant) and roles of any additional members of the study team. Roles may include (but are not limited to): • Co-lead (please include email address) • Collaborator (please indicate the areas that they will be collaborating on) • Knowledge user (please indicate the lived/work experience that they bring to the team) • Patient/Public Partner/person with relevant lived/living experience • Research/evaluation assistance • Other roles as appropriate

Part 2: Project Information

Applicants must provide a summary (**4 pages maximum**, letter size, single-spaced, Arial, 12-point font, 1-inch margins) of their proposal which includes the following sections:

Title	Please indicate whether this project is **research** (the intent is generalizable knowledge) or **evaluation** (evaluates a current or existing program for assessment, management or improvement purposes).
Plain Language Summary	This is a clear and concise statement about the goals of your project. Provide some background of your topic, including appropriate literature references and/or local contextual knowledge (e.g. in the case of program evaluation). Provide a brief overview of the steps/methods you are going to undertake, and expected outcomes from your work, particularly for patients/the public. **Please make sure that a member of the public can read and understand this summary.** For information about how to write in plain language, please contact our team at funding@nlsupport.ca.
Population	Briefly describe the population that will be the focus of this study (community, in-patients and/or out-patients, caregivers, family, etc.). Include considerations for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, and Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis Plus (IDE/SGBA+). For example, how will you remove barriers to the recruitment and full participation of individuals from equity-deserving groups in your research project? For more information about IDE/SGBA+ in research, please visit our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) toolkit and CIHR's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Research System and Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+). For research involving Indigenous communities, please refer to TCPS 2, Chapter 9 and the Memorial University Research Involving Indigenous Groups Policy.
Patient/Public Engagement	Describe how you have and/or will engage people with lived/living experience as partners in your project. This is not the same as involving "people as subjects" for data collection. For example, people with lived/living experience can help: • Inform research priorities • Design interventions • Clarify the research questions and affirm their importance • Define outcomes that are important • Assist in creating a recruitment strategy • Ensure that the methods selected are appropriate for study participants • Review and comment on proposed data collection methods • Assist in writing information for patients/the public • Assist with developing documents, such as informed consent forms • Assist in collecting and/or interpreting data • Share results

	• Develop and implement new services or programs, etc. The activities listed above are not normally undertaken by study subjects. The activities that your lived/living experience partners are engaged in throughout your project should be distinct from the study population activities. For more information about ways to engage people with lived/living experience in health projects please see the BC SPOR SUPPORT Unit Patient Partner Road Map. We acknowledge that not all "patient partners" wish to be referred to as such and we encourage you to use whatever language has been decided within your study team, as long as the engagement of people with lived/living experience and their roles on the project team are clear.
Research or Evaluation Question	Clearly state the research or evaluation question(s) and objectives of your project. The FINER criteria highlight useful points that may increase the chances of developing good questions: **F**easible, **I**nteresting, **N**ovel, **E**thical and **R**elevant.
Design	Describe the ways in which you will gather your data and perform the analysis. Please emphasize whether your design has the potential to inform an ongoing learning cycle in the context you are working in. For more information about learning cycles, please see the ***What is a Learning Cycle?*** section on Page 11.
Intervention	If applicable, describe the intervention(s) you suggest for use to improve patient care and outcomes.
Timeline	Briefly describe your timeline or include a basic timeline table. The duration for the NL SUPPORT Health Professional-led Research/Evaluation Funding is 12 months. All project funding must be spent by February 29, 2028 at the latest.
Budget Justification	Include a budget justification that outlines how the requested funds will be spent, as well as and any other funding or in-kind supports provided to enable the proposed work. See the ***Eligible Costs*** section on Page 9 for more information. See ***Budget Example*** on Page 10, and the Centre for Healthcare Innovation's Budgeting for Public and Patient Engagement tool and the SickKids Knowledge Translation Planning Template for budget considerations specific to patient/public engagement and knowledge translation.

Part 3: Ethics/Indigenous Research Agreement

Applicants must provide confirmation that any required research clearance(s) are in place, or a timeline for submission to the appropriate committee for review. **Funding will not be released until applicable documentation has been received by NL SUPPORT.** For more information about what clearances might be required, please refer to the following resources:

- https://rpresources.mun.ca/
- https://hrea.ca/how-to-apply/ethics-review-required/
- https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2022.html

For information about the Research Involving Indigenous Groups Policy at Memorial University please click here. A link to the Indigenous Research Agreement template can be found here. Please note that some local Indigenous governments have research/evaluation approval processes of their own. You must obtain all necessary agreements as outlined by each relevant Indigenous government prior to the release of funds.

If you are unsure whether you need ethics clearances and/or have questions about Indigenous Research Agreements, please contact our team at funding@nlsupport.ca to discuss.

Please complete the following statements:

Ethics Clearances required?
☐ Yes
☐ No

Ethics Clearances attached?
☐ Yes
☐ To follow (please specify date) _____
☐ N/A

Indigenous Research Agreement / Evidence of Community Engagement (must be in place at the application stage)
☐ Required
☐ N/A

Part 4: Host Institution Signatures

Institutions that employ holders of Health Professional-led Research/Evaluation Funding are called **host institutions**. Signatures are required from host institution representatives on all grant applications.

By signing, host institutions agree to accept the responsibilities outlined below on behalf of their grant-holding employees:

- Acceptance of the terms and conditions as outlined in Post Awards Management Guide and Letter of Agreement
- The financial administration of the grants
- Reporting to NL SUPPORT any change in the funding recipient's status that may affect the fulfillment of their research commitment, for example resignation or termination
- Submission of an annual financial statement (Form 300) – a copy of which will be included in the Letter of Agreement – with back up documentation (receipts, etc.) covering the period from April 1 to March 31 for funding; the statement(s) are due no later than **May 1** of each year

_____

(Host Institution name – include department/faculty where relevant)

_____

(Host Institution representative name – printed)

_____

(Signature of Host Institution representative)

_____

(Date)

Eligible Costs

The funds are to be used for eligible expenses directly related to the project and in accordance with the Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide (https://nserc-crsng.canada.ca/en/funding/research-partnerships-and-collaborations/inter-agency/tri-agency-financial-administration-0).

For any inquiries about eligible costs, please contact our team at funding@nlsupport.ca.

Please also review the NL SUPPORT Patient/Public Partner Appreciation Guidelines for information about paying and/or acknowledging the contributions of patient/public partners.

Grantee Reporting Requirements

The successful awardees will be required to:

- Join and provide regular updates to the NL SUPPORT/Quality of Care NL Learning Health and Social System Committee
  - Awardees must be prepared to use this Committee for advice on additional resources, data sources, methods, knowledge users, etc., to help in the establishment of a learning cycle and the overall Learning Health and Social System in NL
  - Awardees who do not provide updates to this Committee must provide a mid-term project update
- Provide an end of study report
- Present their research findings at the Quality of Care NL and NL SUPPORT **Science, Health, and Research Education (SHARE) Summit** and/or other public events or through other NL SUPPORT/Quality of Care NL knowledge mobilization products such as Practice Points
- Disclose any publications/knowledge translation products related to the funded project to NL SUPPORT/Quality of Care NL
- Acknowledge this funding opportunity in knowledge translation products arising from the project
- Submit an annual financial statement (Form 300)

Role of NL SUPPORT

The NL SUPPORT team will provide support to applicants and grant holders in the areas of patient/public engagement, knowledge mobilization, and methods development, as needed. NL SUPPORT strongly encourages all successful applicants to meet with the Unit's Patient/Public Engagement and Knowledge Translation leads throughout the duration of their project for support and guidance. Please contact Georgia Skardasi (gs0667@mun.ca) to set up a project support meeting.

Use and Disclosure

All information requested by the Newfoundland and Labrador Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials Unit (NL SUPPORT) will be used solely for the administration and management of the awards program and is collected under the general authority of the Memorial University Act (RSNL 1990 Chapter M-7). Questions about this collection and use of personal information may be directed to our team at funding@nlsupport.ca.

By submitting this application to NL SUPPORT, you are certifying that all statements included in it and in all its attachments are accurate to the best of your knowledge.

Budget Example

Category	Health Professional-led Funding Amount	Amount from Other Sources
Venue rental (full-day) for priority-setting exercise	$300	
Catering (lunch & snacks for 20 people) for priority-setting exercise	$20/person = $400	
Partner honoraria (~10 hours for event planning & ongoing project advice)	$1000/person for 2 lived experience partners on planning team = $2000	
Token of appreciation for priority-setting exercise participants (TBD)	$50/person for 20 participants planned = $1000	
Funds to support travel to priority-setting meeting (taxi fare for in-town participants)	$200	
Knowledge Mobilization (meeting with community; publishing, if no other funds can be secured; attending a conference to disseminate findings)	$5,000	
Research Assistant (RA) time to support ongoing project work (data collection, analysis, & dissemination)	Graduate student to be paid from Supervisor's funding according to Memorial University rates ($27.10/hour for 320 hours [20 hours/week for 16 weeks] = $8,672 total $1,100 of this will be paid from Health Professional-led Funding	= $7,572 from Principal Applicant's own funding to cover remaining cost of RA
Principal Applicant time		In-kind
Totals	**$10,000**	**$7,572**
Total cost	$17,572	

Please see the George & Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation's Patient and Public Engagement Budgeting tool for budget considerations specific to patient/public engagement and the SickKids Knowledge Translation Planning Template for budget considerations specific to knowledge translation.

What is a "Learning Cycle"?

A **learning health and social system** is one in which science, education, informatics, incentives, and culture are aligned for continuous improvement, innovation, and equity. Best practices are seamlessly embedded in the delivery process, individuals and families are active participants in all elements, and new knowledge is generated as an integral by-product.

These systems are made up of individual **learning cycles** that exist in specific health and social care contexts. Within each learning cycle an opportunity or challenge is identified and key knowledge users are engaged to explore that opportunity/challenge, as well as to identify possible solutions and an evidence base for them. These interventions are then pilot tested and evaluated. The knowledge generated from the pilot test is used to implement and scale the intervention.

Within a learning cycle and across a learning health and social system, this process is continuously repeated, as is the consideration of where opportunities/challenges are identified, who is being engaged in the work (i.e. relevant patients/members of the public) and what knowledge dissemination pathways are being leveraged (i.e. who is being told about the outcomes of pilot tests and how is the knowledge generated being applied to improve one or more of the sextuple aims – see figure 1).

The Health Professional-led Research/Evaluation Funding program is intended to enable learning cycles across the Newfoundland and Labrador Learning Health and Social System by regularly reviewing project progress in the context of the Learning Health and Social System Committee and collaborating with project teams to create linkages to additional resources and knowledge users. We recognize that not every applicant will have considered their project with this lens, and that is okay. If you have any questions about the NL Learning Health and Social System and/or learning cycles, please contact Robert Wilson (r.wilson@mun.ca).

Figure 1. The Sextuple Aims of the NL Learning Health and Social System

Self-Identification Questionnaire

All applicants are encouraged to complete our Self-Identification Questionnaire, accessible via the following link: https://mun.yul1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eXusHWo0UGF3wc6

The information collected in this questionnaire will not be shared with the selection committee, nor will it be used in the evaluation of this application. We are collecting this information as part of the NL SUPPORT Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) plan to better understand the composition of the research/evaluation teams we are supporting.