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# Addiction & Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network 2015-2016 Call for Proposals

*Clinical Engagement Grant*

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Scientific Office of the Addiction & Mental  
Health Strategic Clinical Network

# Addiction & Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network 2015-2016 Call for Proposals

## *Clinical Engagement Grant*

### Description

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The Addiction & Mental Health SCN (AMH SCN) is pleased to announce the 2015-2016 Clinical Engagement Grant funding competition designed to encourage clinical staff to participate in the research mandate of AHS to improve the quality of care for Addiction and/or Mental Health patients in Alberta.

There are two types of grants available: the Clinician Grant and the Resident Grant. The maximum amount of a single Clinician award is \$10,000 and the maximum amount of a single Resident award is \$5,000. The total amount of funds available in this competition is \$30,000. Two of each type of grant will be available. The grant is non-renewable.

### Background

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The AMH SCN has been created to encourage the development of ideas that will improve Addiction & Mental Health Care according to the Health Quality Council of Alberta's six domains of quality: appropriateness, accessibility, effectiveness, efficiency, safety, and acceptability. The goal of this competition is to encourage the clinical staff in Addiction and Mental Health treatment to engage in research to improve the outcomes and experiences of addiction and mental health patients and further to provide support for research to residents in Alberta programs.

### Eligibility

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- Clinician projects must be led by a clinician with an AHS appointment
- Resident grants must be led by a resident in a Psychiatry department in Alberta

### Review Criteria

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Applications considered eligible for funding will be evaluated based on pre-established criteria. The Review Panel will be created from the AMH SCN Core Committee members and a diverse group of stakeholders.

The assessment of proposals by the Review Panel will be based on the following criteria:

### Potential Impact

- Measurable impact on Addiction & Mental Health treatment in Alberta

- The significance of the issue and potential impact in generating and transferring new knowledge and beneficial results beyond the project participants; potential impact within, and beyond, the local institution and the academic community
- The development of pilot data to advance programs of research for larger national and international granting competitions
- Potential to improve understanding in the project's subject field; quality and nature of assessment of the literature
- For knowledge implementation projects: strategies for reaching improved patient outcomes and experience should be evident; the presence of a documented and coherent knowledge translation strategy generated by the project beyond the project participants

### Proposal Merit

- Innovative and original idea(s)/objectives
- Uniqueness of project in the Alberta landscape for Resident applicants
- Relevance to the scope of the Addiction & Mental Health SCN mandate
- Feasibility and viability, including consideration of the costs and sustainability
- Comprehensive, relevant performance metrics that can be used at the end of the first year of funding

### Team Strengths

- Expertise related to the proposed project; past productivity of the project team
- Strength of mentorship available for Resident applicants

### Methods and Analysis

- Rigor of the scientific methods
- Clear timelines with outcomes identified

## Budgetary Issues

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The time frame and associated expenses must be clearly justified. Funds should be expended within one year from the time they are made available.

Funding may be requested for:

- Direct costs up to the value of the grant
- Stipend support for trainees, or salaries for research associates/assistants
- General research operating expenses, including specimen-related costs; data collection (i.e. chart abstraction), data entry and/or statistical analysis
- Expenses for travel that are essential for the conduct of the study (i.e. data collection)
- Publication costs, travel to conferences, symposiums or meetings necessary within a sound knowledge translation strategy
- Other expenses will be considered but must be justified

Funding will not be provided for:

- Expenses incurred prior to implementation of the grant
- Salaries for Principal Investigator, faculty member, resident/fellow

- Expenses for equipment over \$1,000

## Reporting and Deliverables

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A final report within two-years of award initiation will be required. A report template will be provided.

Preparation of a publication for submission to a peer-reviewed journal is expected to be demonstrated within 12 months of project completion.

## Competition Schedule

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<b>December 2015</b>	Call for Clinical Engagement Funding applications
<b>February 2016</b>	Application submission deadline
<b>March 2016</b>	Notification of awards and funds dispersed

## Program Policies

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- PIs may only hold a single active Clinical Engagement Grant but may be co-investigators on multiple awards
- Single projects will only be considered once
- Successful applicants must provide proof of relevant ethics approvals prior to fund release
- Failure to submit a final report may disqualify the applicant from future funding
- All unused funds at the end of the award must be returned to the AMH SCN for use towards future research applications
- Important changes to study design, including study population, recruitment or intervention, must be reported to the AMH SCN immediately. If changes are substantial deviances from the original application, the grant may be closed and the funds returned
- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered

Applicants are highly encouraged to work with members of the AMH SCN in preparation of their proposal.

## Application Instructions

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- Submit completed application by the indicated deadline:
  - Project proposal within the space provided in the application form
  - Project budget with details and justification
  - Condensed Curriculum Vitae of the Principal Investigator
  - Any appendices (optional) up to 2 pages

All documents can be sent electronically to [Katherine.Rittenbach@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Katherine.Rittenbach@albertahealthservices.ca)

## Competition Review Panel

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Each grant will be reviewed by 5 members of the review panel which will include the AMH SCN Scientific Director and Assistant Scientific Director the other specific reviewers will be chosen based on their expertise in the areas of the proposed projects.

- Scientific Director, AMH SCN
- Assistant Scientific Director, AMH SCN
- Senior Medical Director, AMH SCN
- Senior Provincial Director, AMH SCN
- Executive Director, AMH SCN
- Assistant Scientific Director, a separate SCN with associated scope
- Patient Representative
- 2 Urban SCN core members
- 2 Rural SCN core members
- External Reviewers (as appropriate):
  - AMH experts from the zones and/or the Provincial Team within AHS
  - Research Facilitation experts in Biostatistics, Evaluation and Knowledge Translation
  - Members of the Hotchkiss Brain Institute, Matheson Institute, Women and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI), and Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI)