



# Cancer Prevention Research Opportunity (CPRO)

## Program Guide

### Background

The Cancer Prevention Research Opportunity (CPRO) is the latest in AIHS's suite of Collaborative Research and Innovation Opportunities (CRIO). CRIO aims to tackle priority health issues by bringing together experts in different disciplines, fields and areas to contribute a wide range of skills, education, experience and background to reach solutions.

CPRO is funded through the Alberta Cancer Prevention Legacy Fund (ACPLF). ACPLF aims to transform cancer prevention with Albertans through innovative population-based initiatives, screening, and collaborative, focused research. Alberta Health Services (AHS) and AIHS work together to deliver on ACPLF's mandate under the strategic guidance of the Government of Alberta.

Two provincial plans, [Alberta's Strategic Approach to Wellness](#) and [Changing Our Future: Alberta's Cancer Plan to 2030](#), provides the broad framework for ACPLF priorities and CPRO funding decisions.

### Objectives

The goal of CPRO is to help lower the rates of cancer and improve outcomes for cancer patients through prevention strategies and lifestyle changes. CPRO will fund research activities that create new knowledge in cancer prevention and screening and move it into practice in the health system, communities, workplaces, and in the daily lives of Albertans.

### Priority Areas

Research funded through CPRO must address a well-defined and specific research question under at least one of the following ACPLF priority areas:

- **Prevention in primary health care:** research that supports health promotion, prevention, and effective screening within primary care including the integration of prevention and screening into care plans for cancer survivors to prevent recurrence and secondary cancers;



- **Community mobilization / engagement:** community-driven research that builds upon current assets, enables supportive environments, and identifies barriers, cancer prevention interventions, and successful intervention strategies;
- **Health and wellness equity:** research that focuses on reducing unjust and avoidable differences in cancer risk including inequities in planning and delivering cancer prevention and screening activities and interventions to reduce disparities and improve overall health equity;
- **Healthy lifestyles / wellness / risk modification:** research related to modifying lifestyle choices and modifiable risk factors (eg. diet, obesity, physical activity, alcohol, tobacco, ultraviolet radiation, HPV, and lack of screening) that includes identifying barriers to behavioural change and social determinants of health;
- **Research into integration of care across the cancer prevention continuum** at the individual, family, community, and primary and acute health care levels, including gaps in integration, barriers to integration, and solutions to improve integration;
- **Data / Surveillance:** research into innovative, sustainable systems to monitor Alberta cancer risk factor prevalence and screening rates, including collecting modifiable risk factors at local geographic levels or devising methods to support surveillance in populations at higher risk of cancer;
- **Performance Indicators:** research into performance indicators that allow evaluation of the impact of cancer prevention and screening initiatives.

CPRO will **not** support research related to:

- therapeutic or biomarker discovery / development
- basic cancer biology and/or disease mechanisms

## Expectations

CPRO will fund research activities in the ACPLF priority areas that:

- Involve collaborative, interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral and/or multi-institutional research with a targeted focus on achieving cancer prevention solutions;
- Help advance Alberta's programs and infrastructure to support cancer prevention and screening strategies in both the short and long term;
- Provide evidence to advance and support cancer prevention strategies and practice at the individual, family, workplace, community, and healthcare level;
- Engage researchers at the community and/or primary care level;



- Engage knowledge/end-users, including the general public, in developing the research project and moving research into action and enabling impact on the health of Albertans and/or the healthcare system;
- Preferably align with the ACPLF Innovation teams and relevant Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs) at AHS (this would be considered a strength, but is not a requirement);
- Provide opportunities for interdisciplinary research training and mentorship to build cancer prevention research capacity in Alberta; and
- Connect Alberta to national and international initiatives and leverage additional opportunities.

## Levels of Funding

At least \$7,000,000 of funding is available for CPRO. Applicants may request support through one of the following funding levels, for a maximum term of five years:

### **Level 1 - \$250,000/year; up to five years**

A minimum of three collaborators that will work together on a specific project with a defined set of deliverables. There is no expectation that the collaboration will extend beyond the duration of this grant. However, this collaboration could provide the framework for a more complex project to develop.

### **Level 2 - \$500,000/year; up to five years**

A group of three to five collaborators that may already have an informal arrangement or shared funding to support interdisciplinary work, or have specific plans for such arrangements. This level of funding is focused on a more complex program instead of a single project.

### **Level 3 - \$1,000,000/year; up to five years**

A team or network with a minimum of six collaborators that collectively have national or international stature. The complexity of the health issues of interest requires the involvement of many stakeholder groups.



## Application Process

There is a four-stage application process for CPRO:

- 1) **Registration for the Workshop deadline** - June 1, 2015
- 2) **Workshop** - June 16, 2015 in Edmonton, AB
- 3) **Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline** – August 7, 2015
- 4) **Full Application Deadline** – December 7, 2015

The workshop is designed to help form research collaborations, identify research questions related to CPRO objectives and develop feasible approaches towards cancer prevention. It will be facilitated to maximize engagement between registered applicants and ACPLF stakeholders, including members of the ACPLF Innovation Teams, the Strategic Clinical Networks, and other contributors to Alberta’s cancer prevention strategy. **NOTE: Attendance at the workshop by at least one Collaborative Lead is a prerequisite in order to submit an LOI.**

Once a research group and question has been developed following the workshop, the third stage is to develop and submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). Those successful at the LOI stage will be invited to submit a Full Application. Invited applicants can request up to \$10,000 from AIHS to support the development of the Full Application.

## Eligibility

At least one Collaborative Lead must attend the workshop in order to submit an LOI. Full Applications will only be accepted from applicants successful at the LOI stage.

Each eligible CPRO LOI and Full Application must include:

- **Collaborative lead(s):** An individual with an established career and proven leadership skills and experience in their field. The Collaborative Lead will act as program director and will (in collaboration with their organization) assume administrative responsibility for the funding. It is expected that they will devote a significant and appropriate portion of her/his time to these tasks. Collaborative Leads can lead more than one CPRO simultaneously. There can also be more than one Collaborative Lead for each application. At least one Collaborative Lead(s) will have their primary appointment at an Alberta-based organization.



- **Collaborative members:** Members of the group (including researchers and knowledge/end-users) needed to address the research objectives. Members can be people from outside Alberta. These individuals should have an extensive record of success in their area of expertise, be innovative in their approach to research and its translation, and have experience working in teams. The specific contribution of each collaborative member must be described in the application, where applicable. Collaborators from outside of Alberta who make a substantial intellectual contribution to the program must be listed as collaborators.
- **Knowledge/end-users:** Individuals who are capable of and will facilitate the movement of evidence into practice. Knowledge/end-users can include healthcare professionals, community leaders and individuals, or those who develop policy. AIHS encourages active and meaningful partnerships between research teams based in institutions (including universities, hospitals, and affiliated research institutions) and those in practice/policy/private sector or community-based knowledge/end-user groups. The roles of knowledge/end-users should be formally agreed upon to ensure equity and mutual benefit from the partnership.
- **Interdisciplinary activity:** The research group membership should reflect the involvement of different institutions, fields of research, and types of care and levels of service needed to address the research question and the requirements of the end-users.

## Allowable Costs

AIHS funding can be used for a broad range of collaboration-related costs including research infrastructure, research operating costs, core administrative/management costs, scientific support for the team, collaborative/linkage activity, knowledge exchange/translation activity, and training support. Specific and justified requests that AIHS funding be used for work performed outside of Alberta will be considered. However, it is expected that most of the funding will remain in Alberta.

More detailed information on allowable costs can be found in the CPRO Application Instructions.



## Review Process

All LOIs will be initially screened and ranked by a committee composed of ACPLF stakeholders and cancer prevention experts for relevance to the ACPLF priority areas and feasibility in achieving the overall CPRO objectives. Only highly ranked LOIs will be invited to submit a Full Application.

Full Applications will be assessed by an interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, expert review committee. It will include investigators in relevant areas with excellent track records of either fostering or conducting interdisciplinary research and/or leading interdisciplinary research teams, as well as individuals who can provide knowledge transfer and/or end-user perspectives.

Full Applications deemed to have significant merit by the committee but require certain revisions in order to be deemed fundable may be provided with one opportunity to submit a revised application for review (pending availability of funds).

While separate research components may be included in the application, each CPRO application will be assessed as a single, integrated entity. Applicants must demonstrate that the collaboration not only brings added value but is essential to the group's approach to the cancer prevention issue being addressed. The group must also demonstrate their ability to generate new knowledge and translate it into improvements in cancer prevention strategies in the health system and in the lives of Albertans.

Results of the Full Application review are anticipated to be announced in March 2016.

## Assessment Criteria

Applications will be reviewed based on the following assessment criteria:

- **Relevance to the CPRO objectives and ACPLF priority areas:** all aspects of the application must be relevant to the CPRO objectives and at least one of the ACPLF priority areas.
- **Engagement with knowledge/end-user collaborators and/or partners:** knowledge/end-user(s) are meaningfully engaged from the start through completion of the proposed research activities to provide the support necessary for deliverables to have the intended impact;



- **Collaborator Expertise:** the proposed collaborators have the expertise and/or experience to successfully bring the proposed research activities to their planned end-point;
- **Significance and Innovation:** the proposed research activities are based on an important and well-formulated health question/issue and define specific deliverables as the proposed solutions/outcomes;
- **Approach:** the collaborative approach described for the proposed research is necessary, integrated, feasible and aligned to the generation of the specific and defined deliverables;
- **Environment:** the environment described for the proposed research will contribute positively to the achievement of the defined objectives.

More detailed information on the assessment criteria is located in the CPRO Application Instructions.

## Contact Information

For further information on CPRO, please contact:

### **Carla Weyland**

Lead, Industry & Technology Initiatives

[carla.weyland@aihealthsolutions.ca](mailto:carla.weyland@aihealthsolutions.ca)

780-429-9331

### **Bindi Ferguson**

Manager, Industry & Technology Initiatives

[bindi.ferguson@aihealthsolutions.ca](mailto:bindi.ferguson@aihealthsolutions.ca)

780-306-1099