What is the Indigenous Mentorship Network Program?

The CIHR-Institute of Aboriginal People’s Health (IAPH) strives to advance the research agenda to improve the health of Indigenous people in Canada. Strengthening research networks and facilitating capacity exchange for Indigenous health researchers is an integral activity to ensure systemic growth in research capacity and development. IAPH is committed to building capacity among emerging Indigenous health researchers. To further this goal, IAPH is interested in funding transformative and paradigm shifting proposals in the development of an Indigenous Mentorship Network Program (IMNP), which meets the needs of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis trainees, and New Investigators. The goal of this funding opportunity is to create distinctive and culturally relevant cohort learning opportunities and tailored mentoring activities. These activities will create support mechanisms, attend to the psychosocial needs of trainees and New Investigators and identify system and individual barriers hindering First Nations, Inuit, and Métis trainees, and New Investigators in Indigenous Health Research.

Objectives

The specific objectives of this funding opportunity are to:

• Increase mentorship opportunities for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis trainees and New Investigators through networking;
• Address recruitment, retention and representation of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis trainees, and New Investigators;
• Create mechanisms within Mentorship Networks that support trainees and New Investigators throughout the different stages of their training and career;
• Inclusion of cultural practices and attention to the psychosocial needs of trainees in IMNPs;
• Identify systemic and individual barriers hindering First Nations, Inuit, and Métis trainees, and New Investigators from becoming full-tenured faculty members or Nominated Principal Investigators driving the Indigenous health research agenda; for example, and develop strategies for overcoming barriers.

Important Dates

Step 1 - Letter of Intent (LOI) deadline: January 18, 2016
Step 2 - Full application deadline: October 1, 2016

Indigenous Mentorship Network Program LOI

This stage will fund up to 8 Letters of Intent for the development of 3 regional Indigenous Mentorship Network Programs that meets the needs of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis trainees, and New Investigators.

All successful teams at this stage must attend a mandatory workshop to further develop a final regional based application. The purpose of the workshop is to develop synergies between the teams and develop regional networks representative of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. The IAPH may invite external partners and mentors to attend this workshop. Up to 3 networks (each $ 300,000/year for up to 5 years) will be funded at the Full Application stage.

Eligibility to Apply

For your application to be eligible:

• The Nominated Principal Applicant must be an independent researcher;
• The Nominated Principal Applicant must be appointed at an eligible institution (see Institutional Eligibility Requirements for eligibility process and associated timelines);
• Other applicants or collaborators can be non-Indigenous, but a majority (>50%) of the Principal Applicants and/or Principal Knowledge Users on the application must be First Nations, Inuit, and/or Métis.

Note: The participation of mentors from other countries in the IMNP is encouraged, either as Principal Applicants, co-Applicants or collaborators to support First Nations, Inuit, and Métis trainees, and New Investigators.
**LOI Funds Available**

The total amount available for the Letters of Intent is $200,000, enough to fund up to 8 development grants of up to $25,000 each to successful applications at the Letter of Intent stage.

**LOI Evaluation Criteria**

Peer Review will be conducted in accordance with [CIHR Peer Review Manual for Grant Applications](#).

LOIs will be evaluated by a peer review committee which will review for excellence using the following criteria:

1. **Program Vision, Rationale and Priorities of IMNP**
   - Extent to which the team's proposed Mentorship Network program responds to the objectives of the Funding Opportunity.
   - The extent to which the proposal describes a realistic plan: the priorities, objectives, scope and vision of the proposed Mentorship Network are clearly written, focused and appropriate.
   - Appropriateness and strength of the proposed program outreach to recruit and retain as many mentees as possible and accommodating their contextual needs.
   - Appropriateness of the program's proposed integration and leveraging of other mentoring activities whereby mentees are exposed to leaders in Indigenous research locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally.
   - Extent of institutional commitments to create a supportive mentoring environment.

2. **Applicants**
   - The extent to which IMNP members have the necessary knowledge, expertise and experience in research, knowledge translation and implementation of programs, strategies and services in collaboration with Indigenous peoples at local, regional, provincial/territorial, national, and/or international levels.
   - Track-record of successfully mentoring Indigenous trainees and New Investigators is appropriately demonstrated.
   - Dedication of leadership in the Program through time committed to mentoring activities is aptly demonstrated.

**Required Documentation for LOI**

1. **Summary of Proposal**
   Summarize your proposal (maximum 1 page).

2. **LOI Proposals**
   The LOI Proposal is limited to a maximum of 6 pages (excluding charts, tables, figures, photographs and references). The proposal should stand alone (i.e. it should contain all the information required to support your proposed plan and should contain a complete description of your project). For the purpose of peer review, the proposal should not depend on information such as appendices that are not included in the page limit of the proposal. Charts, tables, figures, photographs and references can be attached in an Appendix.

The LOI Proposal should include the following:

   (a) **Applicant Table (identifying Participants)**
   An Applicant Table must be attached (need not be final at the LOI stage but must still address all eligibility requirements):
   - Include the names of all applicants/team members (known to date).
   - Clearly identify their applicant role (Nominated Principal Applicant, Principal Applicants, Co-Applicants, Principal Knowledge Users, Knowledge Users or Collaborators).
   - Indicate if they are First Nation, Inuit or Métis (or non-applicable).
   - Indicate their province and/or country of location.
   - Identify their role in the proposed program, including if a participant is a Mentor or First Nation, Inuit or Métis Trainee or New Investigator.
   - Briefly describe what each individual listed will contribute to the proposed program.
   - Include 5-10 keywords for each applicant.

*Sample Applicant Team Table*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Applicant Role</th>
<th>First Nation, Inuit, or Métis or N/A</th>
<th>Province or Country</th>
<th>Mentor, Trainee, or New Investigator</th>
<th>Contribution to Program</th>
<th>Research Area Keywords</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Please note all participants listed (other than Collaborators) will require a **CIHR PIN**. Please ensure these are set up/ requested sufficiently in advance of the LOI submission deadline.
About IAPH
The Institute of Aboriginal Peoples’ Health (IAPH) fosters the advancement of a national health research agenda to improve and promote the health of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada, through research, knowledge translation, and capacity building. The Institute’s pursuit of research excellence is enhanced by respect for community research priorities and Indigenous knowledges, values, and cultures.

Contact Information
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Required Documentation for LOI (continued)
(LOI requirements continued)

(b) Participant CV
CCVs are required for all participants identified (except the collaborators). The type of CCV required will be dependent on the role selected (academic vs. knowledge-user).

(c) Budget Information and Supporting Documents
For developmental grant requests, upload a document entitled “Requested Budget” which includes a budget description, an outline of activities and explaining how the developmental grant will be used.