



2015-2017 Developmental Services (DS) Research Grant Fund CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND APPLICATION TEMPLATES

Explanation of the Fund:

The object of the Developmental Services (DS) Research Grant Fund is to support research and innovative initiatives specifically for the Developmental Services sector.

The Fund has been set aside to support knowledge enhancement across the Developmental Services Sector. The Fund will provide a maximum of \$400,000 across all funded projects each of two years to support research in priority areas.

A list of topics that align with the Ministry of Community and Social Services' priorities is included in the application package.

Research Activities Supported by the DS Research Grant Fund

The DS Research Grant Fund will support research and innovative initiatives that provide evidence or collect data through a variety of means, including: reviews of literature; research and practice syntheses; meta-analyses; qualitative, quantitative and quasi-experimental research studies; case studies and comparisons; and tests of new initiatives through innovative demonstration projects.

DS Research Grant Fund may not be used to:

- Finance research projects that are financially supported through other sources of funding (e.g., SSHRC).



Eligibility

The intent of the fund is to support improvements in developmental services. Applicants may be researchers from academic or community-based institutions. Collaborative research projects between community and academic partners are encouraged.

Proposals must be completed, signed by the lead researcher and submitted by the July 27, 2015 deadline.

Timelines

Projects may be either short-term projects that are less than one year in duration or larger projects that have a duration of a maximum of two years.

Projects are eligible for varying amounts of funding based on the complexity of the project, the number of research questions identified, the duration of the project and the type of research. For example, complex research projects, involving experimental, quasi-experimental or meta-analysis may require more resources and time than brief literature reviews, which may be completed in three to six months.

Knowledge mobilization and exchange

All funded projects must identify the products that will be created as a result of the research undertaken, and include a knowledge mobilization and exchange plan that includes a description of proposed dissemination activities throughout the project lifespan. Funded projects are expected to work with MCSS staff to organize a presentation through the "Speaker Series" presentations at MCSS or at a forum to be organized by MCSS.

Current call for proposals

Currently, MCSS is interested in obtaining research proposals on the topics listed on the next page.



The research topics

1. Funding approaches and practices:
 - Understanding the advantages and disadvantages of direct/flexible/self-directed social funding versus indirect or agency-based funding, as well as barriers and enablers (legislation, regulation, or professional guidelines) of implementing a successful direct funding system.
 - Study of the developmental services system in Ontario, including for users, funders, and those who deliver services, with respect to its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges to implement direct/flexible/self-directed funding approaches.
2. Service models for complex needs clients:
 - Understanding the evolving support needs of relevant client groups (e.g., persons with secondary diagnoses, persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder) as they age, including both residential and at-home/community services.
 - Identifying best practices in system navigation practices and tools.
3. Employment:
 - Identifying best practices for employing/finding employment for persons with a disability in general and persons with developmental disability in particular.

Proposal submission process

Applicants may submit one or more proposals; however, separate proposals must be submitted for each project.

Each project proposal will undergo a peer-review process and will be assessed with respect to its scientific merit, relevance, manageability (in scale and scope), and anticipated benefit for the budget requested.



Completing the proposal application

Applicants are required to use the attached template to outline each proposal being submitted.

For projects that are reviews of literature, applicants are required to provide a brief description of their proposed methodology and disciplinary perspective (e.g., psychology, sociology, economics). Include a discussion of the sources of information to be used; methods of accessing these sources; a screening process for inclusion and exclusion; and approaches to analyzing and interpreting the information gathered.

For research studies, descriptions must include a literature review; proposed design and methods; sampling technique and size; measures (including validity and reliability); and planned qualitative and statistical analyses.

Both types of projects require a detailed description of the timelines and a knowledge-mobilization and exchange strategy. Applicants submitting proposals must submit a budget ensuring that they identify costs in the areas of salaries and stipends; materials and supplies; computing and related costs; and any other anticipated expenditures. A justification must be provided for each category. A list of acceptable expenses are outlined in the application form.

Submitting the proposal application

All proposals must be submitted electronically to

Georgina.Archbold@ontario.ca **by 12:00pm on July 27, 2015.** Late proposals will not be accepted.

All signature pages must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on July 31, 2015

by mail to the following address: Georgina Archbold, Policy Research and Analysis Branch in the Ministry of Community and Social Services, 80 Grosvenor Street, 3rd Floor, Hepburn Block, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1E9.

Important dates

Closing date for applications	July 27, 2015
Peer Review Panel meeting to evaluate proposals	August 2015
Successful proposals announced	August 2015
Funds dispersed	September 2015