

EPID@WORK
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Seed Grant Application & Procedures



EPID@Work 2026 Seed Grant Application and Procedures

The goal of EPID@Work's Seed Grant program is to attract new and established researchers to focus on research addressing EPID@Work's mandate. One call for applications will usually be made each year, typically in the early spring. This year, we have funds to support 3 applications. Preference will be given to applications that prioritize engaging community stakeholders as a key aspect of their project. The funds requested can range from \$5,000 to a maximum of \$20,000. The project (including spending of funds) must be completed within one year of receiving funds.

Eligibility

To be eligible for Seed Grant funding, applications must:

- Include at least one EPID member on the project team (see the EPID@Work website for our current membership, under the heading "[Our Team](#)"). The Principal Investigator (PI) or someone on the research team must be a faculty member who has the ability to hold funds at Lakehead University. The Project Lead, defined as the individual responsible for managing and executing the activities of the proposed research, is not required to hold funds, but the Project Lead may also be the PI. Trainees may apply as Project Leads, co-PIs, or co-investigators.

Please note that as of the submission date, an individual can only be a Project Lead on one Seed Grant at a time.

To be considered for funding, Seed Grants must:

1. Address the mandate of the EPID@Work Institute: "*EPID@Work's mission is to conduct collaborative, transdisciplinary, and actionable research with and for the Northwestern Ontario community to support healthy, safe and inclusive work.*"
2. Focus on at least one of EPID's main research areas: mental health in the workplace; inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility; knowledge mobilization and implementation. [Click here](#) for more information on these research areas.
3. Address three or more of the Institute's goals and objectives.

Goals:

- Conduct high-quality, transdisciplinary research in the areas of work-related injury and disability prevention, with a focus on issues relevant to Northwestern Ontario.
- Participate in integrated knowledge exchange with community stakeholders and the greater research community participating at all phases of the research process.

- Provide an exemplary training and experience opportunity for the next generation of transdisciplinary researchers in Northwestern Ontario and beyond.
- Enable community stakeholders to easily and centrally access Lakehead's research expertise and knowledge in the areas of work-related injury and disability prevention through the provision of research and education services.

Objectives:

- Increase the involvement of early career faculty, post-doctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students, and community partners in work-related research.
- Increase the number of research projects related to work-related injury and disability prevention in Northwestern Ontario.
- Provide training and research services to community stakeholders.

Application Submission

The submissions for Seed Grant funding applications should be completed using the [Seed Grant Application Form](#) and submitted by July 31st, 2026 at 4:30 pm to the Dr. Kathy Sanderson via kjsander@lakeheadu.ca

Evaluation of Applications

Evaluation of the applications for funding will be screened by the EPID@Work Management Committee. Then, the EPID@Work Advisory Board will evaluate based on relevance to EPID@Work stakeholders in Northwestern Ontario.

Preference will be given to applications that prioritize engaging community stakeholders as a key aspect of their project.

Notice of Decision

When a Seed Grant is awarded, the following steps occur:

1. Congratulations! Successful applicants automatically become members of the EPID@Work Research Institute, if not already a member.
2. Successful applicants will be notified and will receive a Seed Grant information package containing important deadlines, EPID branding & funding acknowledgements, and other requirements of the grant.
3. The Research Services Office at Lakehead University will send a notice of award with funding terms and conditions to the award holder's institution. This notice includes Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC & SSHRC) Financial Administration Guidelines on the Use of Grant Funds as they apply to CIHR.
4. The first payment (60% of the total allocation) will be transferred to the award holder upon notification from Research Services. Thirty percent (30%) of the

allocation is contingent upon receiving the mid-term (six-month) progress report. Ten percent (10%) of the allocation will be withheld until recipients have submitted final research and financial reports.

Note: There is a one-year timeline for all Seed Grant projects, commencing on the date of notification. However, funds will not be released until the Seed Grant holder obtains an approval letter from Lakehead University's Research Ethics Board (REB), should their research project require REB approval.

Seed Grant Requirements

All persons/teams awarded a Seed Grant through EPID@Work are responsible for adhering to the following requirements:

Research Ethics:

1. It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure that Lakehead University's Research Ethics Board approval is obtained whenever human participants are involved in the research. In the event of secondary analysis or other human subject research that is exempt from ethical review, the applicant is responsible for obtaining a waiver for ethical approval from the REB.

Financial/Grant Accountability:

1. Funds must be used and accounted for in accordance with [CIHR spending guidelines](#) (Use of Grant Funds).
 - a. Funds used for conference attendance within Canada may not exceed 10% of the total budget. No international travel will be supported by seed grant funds.
2. Any major changes in a project's budget, design, or research team composition must receive authorization in writing from the Director of the EPID@Work Research Institute using the Seed Grant Adjustment Form.
3. Grant recipients must retain original receipts and invoices, maintain a ledger of expenditures incurred against the grant, and make the receipts, invoices, and ledger available for inspection upon request by EPID@Work or the MLITSD.

Knowledge Mobilization:

Successful applicants must:

1. Meet with EPID@Work's KMI Team to create a Knowledge Mobilization & Implementation plan for their research project within two months of their successful notification (preferably prior to submission).
2. Adhere to EPID's branding package and style guide (to be sent upon notification of success).

3. Acknowledge the MLITSD and Lakehead University's EPID@Work Research Institute for the funding received.
4. Provide an interim update presentation at one of EPID's Tri-Annual Meetings.
5. Present their work at an EPID Talks seminar within one year of project completion and at the EPID@Work Research Into Action Conference.
6. Submit to present at the St. Joseph's Care Group Centre for Applied Health Research's annual Showcase of Health Research or at one other local research showcase or conference external to EPID@Work (e.g. Lakehead University's Research & Innovation week).

Reporting

Academic Outputs:

All Seed Grants must result in a formal grant application (WSIB, CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC or NIH/NIOSH), and/or a publishable manuscript within two years of project completion.

Notice to EPID:

Successful applicants must notify EPID's KMI Team 20 working days in advance of any public announcement, presentation or publication of a project's findings via email to epidevents@lakeheadu.ca.

Interim and Final Reports:

Seed Grant holders must provide a mid-term progress report and final report. Failure to do so will result in a withholding of the remaining funds and ineligibility for submission of any future Seed Grants.