Funding Opportunities in Occupational Health and Safety

OHS Futures- Research Funding Program
OHS Innovation & Engagement Grants

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OHS Futures

Research Funding Program
In 2014 there were an estimated*:
- 2.78 million work-related fatalities
- 373 million non-fatal occupational accidents requiring at least four days of absence from work

Why OHS Futures?

Breakdown of the Estimated Fatal Work-Related Mortality by Cause in 2015

- Communicable Diseases: 17%
- Malignant neoplasms: 26%
- Neuropsychiatric conditions: 31%
- Circulatory diseases: 14%
- Respiratory diseases: 9%
- Digestive diseases: 1%
- Genitourinary diseases: 1%
- Occupational injuries: 1%
OHS Futures

• Began in 2014.
• Formalizes the way researchers, institutions, industry, and labour organizations access funding for Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) research.
• Links government with experts and enhances OHS knowledge and capacity.
• Distributes ~$1 million per year.
OHS Futures

• Funds a wide range of research projects.

• Funded projects address a variety of topics depending on policy and program needs.
Primary Prevention Focused

• Research drives prevention.
• Identify and address knowledge gaps.
• Discover the best available evidence and tools to assist the OHS program with policy decision-making and program development.
• Implement prevention activities using:
  – Policy tools
  – Compliance tools
  – Education tools
Eligibility

• Research must directly impact Alberta workers and workplaces.
  – Work may be conducted outside of Alberta if justified.

• Research should meet the 2019 research priorities.
  – Work that does not meet the priorities may be considered if its OHS importance is strongly justified.

• Research should be a one-year project.
  – Grant Agreements are written for 18 months to allow unexpected delays.
Eligibility

- Organizations must be Canadian-based.
  - The Principal Applicant must have an affiliation with a Canadian organization.
  - International collaborative efforts are encouraged.
  - Principal Applicants who are not part of an academic institution are recommended to partner with a researcher at an academic institution.
Eligibility

- Principal Applicant and/or Co-Applicant:
  - cannot be full-time employees of any Government of Alberta Ministries;
  - must have the qualifications and appropriate expertise to conduct research;
  - must agree to data sharing;
  - must be willing to complete evaluation surveys; and
  - must commit to knowledge translation.
Eligibility

- Funding will not be considered for:
  - projects that are required to be completed under law;
  - drug trials or efficacy research;
  - for-profit product development;
  - high performance computing platforms; and
  - product efficacy or endorsement.
2019 Research Priorities

- Physical hazards
- New and emerging occupational diseases
- OHS implications of emerging technologies and industries
- Violence, psychological hazards and impairment
2019 Research Priorities

• Priority populations include:
  – Indigenous workers
  – Aging workers
  – Young workers
  – Transient, migrant and immigrant workers
  – New workers
  – Pregnant workers
  – Small businesses
2019 Research Priorities

• Gender and health and safety
  – Sex and gender are considerations and should be incorporated into research questions and study design.
Application Process

• Notice of Intent- Winter 2019

• Full Application- Spring 2019

• Important!
  – Only complete applications are reviewed
  – Grant Agreement and Open Data Policy available online
Application Process

• Notice of Intent
  – Evaluation
  – Invitation to apply

• Full Application
  – External Review
  – Internal Review
  – Final Approval
## Application Process

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Data Sharing

• Benefits of Data Sharing

• Data sharing agreement with the Government

• Open Data Portal
Previously Funded Projects

• University of Alberta:
  – Healthy workplaces for helping professions: a framework for addressing psychosocial hazards for child and family service workers, Dr. Thomas Barker
  – Flour exposure, sensitization and respiratory health among Alberta bakers, Dr. Jeremy Beach
  – Occupational injuries in inter-provincial workers in Alberta: A feasibility study with focus on Newfoundland, Dr. Nicola Cherry
OHS Innovation & Engagement Grants
OHS Innovation & Engagement Grants

• Funding for projects focused on:
  – Raising OHS awareness
  – Increasing OHS knowledge
  – Stimulating positive OHS actions
To be eligible for an I&E Grant, the organization must be:

- a non-profit or public sector organization including:
  - non-profit companies
  - societies
  - municipalities
  - school boards
  - health authorities
  - public post-secondary institutions

- operating in Alberta
# OHS Innovation & Engagement Grants

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<th>Grant stream</th>
<th>Eligible activities</th>
<th>Maximum funding per project</th>
<th>Timelines to complete project</th>
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| Capacity Building | • Conferences  
                      • Seminars                     | $10,000                     | 12 months                    |
| Action          | • Develop and disseminate OHS information  
                      • OHS awareness campaigns    | $20,000                     | 18 months                    |
| Momentum        | Requires partnering with another organization  
                      • Develop and disseminate OHS information  
                      • OHS awareness campaigns    | $50,000                     | 18 months                    |
Priority Areas (Reviewed Annually)

• Impairment in the workplace
  – prescription or recreational drugs, stress, fatigue or other factors

• Workplace violence and mental health
  – bullying, harassment, physical violence, domestic violence

• Vulnerable workers
  – new and young workers, recent immigrants, workers with disabilities
Priority Areas (Reviewed Annually)

• Not for profit organizations that support improving compliance in small business
  – developing information resources and tools to assist small businesses in meeting their obligations, supports for agricultural workers
• Occupational disease
Examples of Past Recipients

• The Job Safety Skills Society of Alberta
  – Positive Impact for Youth Safety
    • Development of new interactive learning tools to better engage youth in a positive and proactive manner.

• Alberta Council of Disability Services
  – Building Safety Culture in Community Disability Services
    • Develop and delivery of a series of videos to supplement current health and safety training programs focusing on developing safe and healthy workplaces within the community disability services sector.
Examples of Past Recipients

• Canadian National Institute for the Blind
  – Eye Health and Safety
    • Funding will support development and production of educational resources on eye health and safety in the workplace.
Additional Information

OHSFutures@gov.ab.ca
alberta.ca/ohs-futures-research-grants.aspx

OHS-IE-Grants@gov.ab.ca
alberta.ca/ohs-innovation-engagement-grants-program.aspx
Questions?

Thank you!