

# BCNRI Partnership Research Program Guidelines and Application Procedures

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## *BC Nursing Research Initiative (BCNRI)*

### *Vision*

Better health outcomes for British Columbians and a high quality work life for nurses achieved through excellent, practice-relevant health services research focused on the roles of nurses within the context of the broad health services practice community.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Funded by the Ministry of Health Services through the BC Nursing Research Initiative (BCNRI) the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research announces a **Partnership Research Program to leverage BCNRI funding and to encourage research collaboration among researchers and practitioners (policy or practice) in BC and with researchers across Canada to advance nursing health services research within BC.***

*This program was developed with the advice of the Nursing Research Advisory Council (NRAC). It is one of several programs funded through this initiative to build capacity for and to support practice-relevant health services research focused on the roles of nurses within the context of the broad health services practice community.*

*For more information on the BC Nursing Research Initiative:  
[http://www.mschr.org/special\\_initiatives/nursing\\_research\\_initiative](http://www.mschr.org/special_initiatives/nursing_research_initiative) .*

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

- *To provide partner contributions for successful applicants to national or international peer reviewed competitions that require match/partner funding as a condition of award.*
- *The BCNRI contribution will be up to \$100,000 per project/program over the term of the award.*
- *The proposed project/program must be for practice-relevant nursing health services research that addresses a BCNRI research priority.*
- *The research team must include BC researchers, and members of either the BC nursing policy or practice communities as the practitioners. Representatives of other health professions should also be included as appropriate to the area of investigation.*
- *The research team must also include a researcher(s) from outside of BC.*
- *The project must be a priority for more than one BC health authority or a health authority and the BC Ministry of Health Services.*
- *BCNRI partnership funds must be used in BC, or in ways that demonstratively benefit BC.*

## I. Program Description

Through the BCNRI Partnership Research Program, funding will be available to support applicants that are successful in national or international peer reviewed research team or operating grant competitions that require match/partner funding as a condition of award. To be eligible for consideration, applicants for partnership funding must demonstrate that:

- The research focus of the application meets the BCNRI goals of supporting practice-relevant nursing health services research within a BCNRI priority area outlined in V. Priority Areas of Research.
- The proposed program/project supports collaboration among BC researchers and practitioners (policy or practice), and with researchers across Canada, so that BC may benefit and learn from investigators external to the province to advance nursing health services research within BC.

Applications for partnership funding will only be considered from:

- BC researchers and practitioners, **or**
- Researchers in other Canadian provinces who develop meaningful partnerships with BC researchers and practitioners to extend their research into BC. In such cases, a BC researcher or practitioner must be a co-leader on the application.

## II. Definitions

Within the context of this program, MSFHR and BCNRI employ the following definitions:

**Health services research:** (source: CIHR Grants and Awards Guide – 2008-2009):

“Research with the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health professionals and the health care system, through changes to practice and policy. Health services research is a multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies and personal behaviours affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and ultimately, Canadians’ health and well-being.”

**Practice-relevant research:** (source: King G, Currie M, Smith L, Servais M, McDougall J. A framework of operating models for interdisciplinary research programs in clinical service organizations. *Eval Program Plann* 2008; 31(2):160-173)

Research that is done in partnership and is informed by different perspectives; respects the content and procedural knowledge (i.e., “know how”) of practitioners and decision makers; and addresses the reality of client- or family-centered practice.

**Practitioner:** An individual directly involved in the development and implementation of health policy within BC at a provincial or regional level and/or the delivery of publicly funded health services offered in BC.

**Researcher:** A researcher is an individual who holds or has recently held research operating funds as either a principal or co-investigator at the time this competition closes. Such funding must be from an organization that uses a peer-review process for making funding decisions and is open to all researchers in BC.

**Nurse:** Refers to the full range of regulated nursing roles within the health services practice community.

### III. Funding Available

A total of \$300,000 is available in 2010 for this program. These funds are available for use in meeting the requirement for match/partner funding as outlined above but only for competitions sponsored by agencies that enter into an agreement with MSFHR for award administration. MSFHR has established an agreement with CIHR's Partnerships for Health System Improvements (PHSI) competition. If researchers identify other funding opportunities that require partner contributions, they must first contact the MSFHR Special Initiatives Department so that staff can determine eligibility for funding from this program.

BCNRI will provide partnership funds of up to a maximum of \$100,000 per successful application over the duration of the award term, provided the application meets the BCNRI Partnership Research Program eligibility criteria and is successful in obtaining the national or international funding. If there are more successful applications during a given year than can be supported by the BCNRI Partnership Program's annual budget, funds will be allocated based on ranked order (as established by the competition peer review panel) on a first-come basis until the funds are depleted.

### IV. Eligibility Criteria

- The application must be for practice-relevant nursing health services research that addresses a BCNRI research priority described in [V. Priority Areas of Research](#).
- A BC researcher or practitioner must be the Project Leader or Co-Leader.
- The research team must include BC researchers and members of either the BC nursing policy or practice communities as the practitioners. Representatives of other health professions should also be included as appropriate to the area of investigation.
- BC-led research projects or programs must include a researcher(s) from outside of BC. The external researcher's contribution to the team should be substantial and clearly articulated.
- The project must be a priority for more than one BC health authority or a health authority and the BC Ministry of Health Services.
- The funds provided by BCNRI must be used in BC, or in ways that demonstratively benefit BC.

## V. Priority Areas of Research

- Care Delivery: exploring innovations in health service delivery to better meet the needs of clients, nurses and the health system across a full spectrum of health services:
  - New models of health service delivery
  - New models of staffing: defining the skill mix of nurses, or nurses working with other health professionals, for achieving optimum team composition in the delivery of safe, efficient and effective services.
- Nursing Health Human Resources: exploring innovations that enhance recruitment and retention of the nursing workforce.
- Nursing Practice Relevant Education: exploring innovations in education related to:
  - Undergraduate, graduate and specialty education related to the development of clinical judgment and skills
  - Education for nursing practice: supporting nurses to adapt to and implement changes in practice to meet the needs and improve health outcomes of diverse populations
  - Best practices for orienting and mentoring newly recruited nurses.
- Quality and Safety of the Nursing Practice Environment: research that evaluates the impact (intended and unintended) on the practice environment resulting from the implementation of policy change.

## VI. Process for Requesting Matching Funding

- A request for matching funds must include:
  1. A completed **Application Cover Form** (separate form)
  2. A detailed letter of request (anticipated to not exceed 10 pages) that includes:
    - a) A summary of the project: include a brief overview and background, along with an outline of the research questions, objectives, study design and anticipated outcomes.
    - b) An explanation of how the proposed project meets the BCNRI Partnership Research Program purpose and eligibility criteria.
    - c) A list of all team members, their affiliation and role in the project, clearly indicating the researchers and practitioners on the team.
    - d) The total project budget identifying the amount requested from MSFHR, and how the funds will be used in BC or in ways that clearly benefit BC.
    - e) Letters of support from a minimum of two BC health authorities, or one BC health authority and the BC Ministry of Health Services, explaining why the project is a priority for them. These should not be form letters signed by multiple individuals; letters should be individualized and clearly articulate the reasons for support. Letters of support from project team members will not be accepted.

- f) For the CIHR-PHSI competition –the CIHR Partnership Details form (downloadable from the PHSI application) that the *MSFHR will sign* if the request for matching funds meets our criteria for support. Please ensure the section on annual allocation of funds requested from the BCNRI is completed on the form. The partner information required is: Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, 200 – 1285 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6H 3X8. Contact: Nancy Mathias, [nmathias@msfhr.org](mailto:nmathias@msfhr.org) or 604-714-6343.
- g) For other competitions, please specify what documentation is required (and include the forms) from MSFHR to indicate our willingness to provide partnership funds if the application is successful in obtaining funding from the national or international agency.
- Requests related to CIHR Partnerships for Health System Improvement applications must be received at the MSFHR by 4:30 pm on the date specified in the CIHR program guidelines.
  - All other requests should be made at least four weeks in advance of requiring confirmation of partnership. MSFHR reserves the right to refuse to consider a request if enough lead time is not given.
  - Email requests will be accepted as meeting the MSFHR deadlines. **If only the electronic copy is received by the deadline, the hard copy must be couriered to MSFHR on the day of the competition deadline and received within 48 hours to be considered eligible.**
  - All requests for partnership funds must be submitted to:  
Nancy Mathias, Senior Director, Special Initiatives  
Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research  
#200 – 1285 W. Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6H 3X8  
Email: [nmathias@msfhr.org](mailto:nmathias@msfhr.org)
  - If the proposal meets the BCNRI Partnership Research Program requirements, a letter will be issued by MSFHR indicating that support is available if the application to the national or international agency is successful and BCNRI Partnership Research Program funds are still available.
  - A copy of the full application submitted to the national or international competition must be provided to the MSFHR once it is available.
  - For inquiries please contact Valerie To, Program Coordinator, Special Initiatives, phone: 604-714-2783 or email: [vto@msfhr.org](mailto:vto@msfhr.org)