

Official Languages Health Program

Call for Proposals 2019-2022

Micro-Funding to Improve Access to Health
Services for Official Language Minority
Communities

Applicant Guide



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1. Overview

This call for proposals aims to fund projects that improve access to health services for members of French-speaking communities outside Québec and English-speaking communities in Québec (known as official language minority communities - OLMCs).

The funded projects could address several aspects of the health of OLMCs, such as mental health and the fight against addictions, home care, and palliative and end-of-life care. Projects aimed at responding to health challenges related to COVID-19 in OLMCs are also encouraged.

Micro-grants with a maximum value of \$ 1,000 each will be awarded, on a first-come, first-served basis, to projects that meet the objectives described above. A total amount of \$ 300,000 has been allocated for this call for proposals, including \$ 50,000 that was available in 2019-2020, and an amount of \$ 125,000 in 2020-2021 and \$ 125,000 in 2021-2022. Projects will be accepted until funds have been fully utilized in each fiscal year.

2. About the OLHP

The Official Languages Health Program (hereafter referred to as “the Program”) was established in 2003 and is designed to help reduce language and cultural barriers to health care for English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada. The Program supports the federal government’s commitment to maintaining a strong and effective publicly funded health care system by ensuring that official language minority communities (OLMCs) have access to health services in the language of their choice.

The activities of the Program also support Health Canada’s responsibility for enhancing the vitality of OLMCs pursuant to Section 41 of the Official Languages Act (2005).

The Program fosters collaboration and innovation in the areas of training and retention of health care professionals, health networking activities and innovative projects aimed at improving access to health services for OLMCs.

3. Funding Priorities

The activities funded as part of this process aim to improve access to health services for members of OLMCs, in accordance with the objective of the OLHP. Funded projects must demonstrate innovation and help make a real difference in the lives of members of OLMCs.

Among other things, the projects could be used to:

- improve access to quality and safe health services for OLMCs*;
- attract bilingual health human resources to settle in OLMCs;
- reduce inequalities in access to health services in the patient's official language of choice; and
- provide access and health information to OLMCs in order to make informed decisions.

* Note: the direct provision of health services is under the jurisdictions of the provinces and territories and is not included in this call.

4. Eligibility

As part of this call for proposals, the following applicants will be eligible:

- Individuals aged 16 and over;
- Not-for-profit organizations (including ad-hoc groups or committees and small community groups).

Eligible applicants may include, but are not limited to, students, members of cultural institutions, recent immigrants, members of the LGBTQ2 community, seniors, or other individuals or not-for-profit organizations that are interested in engaging and mobilizing their community to improve access to health services for OLMCs.

This initiative is not open to federal government employees and their immediate families.

Eligible Expenses

In order to strengthen community action at the local level, eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Workshops,
- Group discussions,
- The creation of tools, pamphlets or other resources.

Eligible expenditures include:

- Communications and promotional costs for activities or events;
- Costs related to hosting virtual events;
- Materials and supplies.

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Provision of services that are the responsibility of other levels of government (e.g., care services);
- Capital costs (such as the purchase of office equipment to support project activities);
- Unspecified miscellaneous fees;
- Expenses related to profit-making activities.

5. Funding Amount and Duration

The total budget of each approved project must **not exceed \$1000**. Successful applicants must complete their project in the fiscal year (April 1st to March 31st) in which they received funding.

6. How to Apply

Fill out and sign the Application Form and email it to hc.olcdb-baclo.sc@canada.ca

[Start application now](#)

7. Application Deadline

We are currently accepting applications.

Funding will be provided on a first come, first served basis until all of the planned funding for each fiscal year has been allocated, provided that applicants meet applicable funding priorities and eligibility criteria. The activities presented must also be carried out during the fiscal year in which the proposal was submitted. The total budget is \$ 300,000, of which \$ 50,000 was allocated in 2019-2020, \$ 125,000 in 2020-2021 and \$ 125,000 in 2021-2022.

8. Review Process

- We will acknowledge receipt of your application by email.
- Health Canada will assess your application to see if it meets all funding priority and eligibility requirements for this call for proposals (see sections 3 and 4 of this guide).
- We will notify you of our final decision by email.
- If your application is approved, we will request that a Direct Deposit Form be completed so that we can issue your funding.
- Once you receive the funds, you can begin your project.
- Projects may be subject to random audits. Should Health Canada become aware that you are submitting false or misleading information or misusing funds, you will not be eligible for future project funding and Health Canada may pursue the recovery of funds.

9. Project Reporting

Reporting will be done through social media postings. Micro-grant recipients will be asked to post their project results on popular social media platforms within 30 days of the completion of their project. This will encourage community discussion around innovative approaches and activities and will enable other Canadians to find, share and draw inspiration from funded activities. For example:

1. Post to your Instagram or Twitter account
 - Consider using the hashtag #HealthyOLMCs, #Canada, #OLMC, #HealthCanada, #OLHP
2. Post to a LinkedIn account
3. Facebook

- Post to your personal page
- Join and post to other relevant groups, for example:
 - Canadian Heritage
 - Société Santé en français
 - Community Health and Social Services Network
 - Healthy Canadians (@HealthyCdns)

Proof of social media postings and a summary report on expenditures (make sure you keep all your receipts) must be emailed to hc.olcdb-baclo.sc@canada.ca within two weeks of the publication of the project's results on social media.

Results may include photos, details on what the project is about, when it took place, how many individuals and/or groups participated, and what the outcome was, including any successes or failures.

10. Contact us

To obtain additional information about this call for proposals, please contact Health Canada at: hc.olcdb-baclo.sc@canada.ca.