

Request for Applications
2021 / 2022

The Regional Geriatric Program Central has established a special grant to support research related to Specialized Geriatric Services (SGS) and improving the quality of care for older adults. As described by the Provincial Geriatrics Leadership Ontario (PGLO) office, SGS includes the following clinical geriatric services: Care of the Elderly, Geriatric Medicine, Geriatric Psychiatry and Interprofessional Geriatric Teams¹. Frontline, clinical, professional and administrative staff and students are invited to apply for one-time support funding for research that aims to enhance knowledge, skills, attitudes, clinical practice, quality of care, or customer service within SGS.

Award per application: A maximum of \$10-15,000 per grant (subject to commensurate scrutiny) will be awarded per successful application. Funding must be used by **June 7, 2022**.

Objective: To support ideas for research that aim to enhance knowledge, skills, attitudes, clinical practice, quality of care, or customer service within SGS.

Submission Criteria

To qualify for this grant, projects must meet all of the following criteria:

- Must be submitted by frontline, clinical, and/or professional staff working in SGS or students (registered in a post-secondary program) interested in SGS.
- Applicants working or studying in the Waterloo Wellington; Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand Norfolk, Brant; and Halton regions.
- Must be supported by their immediate leader/supervisor, where applicable.
- Must be supported by or in collaboration with a geriatric specialist within the setting or a physician with Care of the Elderly certification or other specialized training in geriatrics working in the Waterloo Wellington; Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand Norfolk, Brant; or Halton regions.
- Must target older adults 65-years of age or older.
- Must aim to enhance knowledge, skills, attitudes, clinical practice, quality of care, or customer service within SGS (how we work together to deliver care). Funding can be used toward purchasing equipment or materials, support backfilling staff, recruitment of research staff for this research grant, knowledge dissemination or to support process improvement. Examples of possible projects include:
 - Testing the implementation of a new assessment tool (feasibility, effectiveness, value to patient care).
 - Testing the use of new equipment, such as assistive devices for patients with disabilities, or use of computers to reduce social isolation in housebound seniors.
 - Implementation of a new communication, information sharing, tracking, or decision support tools.

¹ <https://rgps.on.ca/about/>

- Delivery of educational programs or provision of resources to support an existing gap in knowledge or care.
- Conducting a literature review relevant to SGS to enhance knowledge in a specific research area.
- Must not cost over \$15,000 (or the amount outlined in the grant) to complete or implement. In cases where costs are over \$15,000 to complete the project or implement an idea, there must be an established funding source to cover costs exceeding \$15,000. No additional funds will be available after June 7, 2022.
- Must include an evaluation process – a method of assessing whether stated objectives were achieved. For quality improvement projects, a Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) quality improvement approach should be considered to guide the implementation of the innovation. This approach focuses on planning, implementation ('do'), evaluation ('study'), and making changes based on evaluation ('act'). As part of the application process, you will need to specify what you intend to accomplish – that is, your specific goals for this project and how you will demonstrate whether you have achieved them. Goals should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely.
- Must have or intend to seek an REB approval or TRAC (if applicable), and a designated research account in order to receive funding.
- Must complete a mid-project status report and submit to Jennifer Siemon (Director of the Regional Geriatric Program Central), siemonj@hhsc.ca and Michelle Doherty (Education Coordinator of the Regional Geriatric Program Central), doherty@hhsc.ca by October 4th, 2021.
- Must have the research or quality improvement study completed by **June 7, 2022**.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Eligibility criteria
2. Relevance/significance of the proposed project to the objective:
 - Is this project in line with the objective of this grant opportunity?
 - Does the project address an important problem or critical barrier in SGS?
 - How well does the project plan represent a unique or innovative approach?
 - Does the project address the needs of the patients, families, or SGS staff?
3. Potential impact of the proposed project:
 - If the aims of the project are achieved, will these achievements result in enhanced knowledge, skills, attitudes, clinical practice, quality of care, or customer service within SGS?
 - Does the proposed project suggest and explore novel, creative and original concepts? (That is, is this project innovative in that it does not duplicate existing practices or products?)
4. Appropriateness and reasonableness of the project:
 - Are capabilities and resources adequate to implement this project?
 - Are the proposed methods/approaches optimal for achieving the objectives of the project?
 - Are the methods/ plan for implementation and evaluation reasonable?
 - Is the specified work plan practical and achievable for the proposed project?
 - Is the project budget reasonable?

Final Report

Successful applicants will be expected to provide a brief final report on their project and submit to Jennifer Siemon and Michelle Doherty by June 7th, 2022 and present their research findings at an RGPc Council Meeting in 2022.

Acknowledgements: Any communications, publications, or presentations related to the work conducted with the financial support of the Specialized Geriatrics Services Grants must acknowledge the Regional Geriatric Program central.

Application Process and Deadline:

Applicants must complete and submit the SGS Grants Application Form by **June 7th, 2021**. **ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE STATUS OF THEIR APPLICATION ONCE A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.**

Applications not eligible for this funding should not be submitted; ineligible applications will be returned to the applicant and will not be reviewed.

Award Notification: Late-June 2021

Completed application forms saved in the format of: last name of primary applicant-application section number-“SGS Grant App 2021” (e.g., Doherty-Section C-SGS Grant App 2021) are to be emailed to: Michelle Doherty (doherty@hhsc.ca).

Confirmation of receipt of the application will be sent to all applicants.

Any inquiries regarding this Research Funding Application (RFA) can be directed to: Michelle Doherty