

**O’Brien Institute for Public Health Research Catalyst Funds – template for requests**

**Health Systems projects, 2025**

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| **Principal Applicant:** |  |
| **Project Title** |  |
| **Catalyst Funds Requested:** | **$** |
| **Submission Date:** |  |

**Program Guidelines:**

1. **The Principal Applicant must be a member of the O’Brien Institute who is eligible to hold funds at the University of Calgary (NB: this includes Postdoctoral Fellows). Trainees and other O’Brien members ineligible to hold funds at the University, and non-O’Brien members are eligible project team members.**
2. **Catalyst awards are not intended to fund a complete project: these smaller awards ($10,000 - $15,000) support the early stage(s) of projects anticipated to yield larger projects and external funding awards within 24 months, academic outputs within the near term (1 – 3 years), and societal benefits in the longer term (2 – 5 years).**
3. **Use of Catalyst awards to launch new interdisciplinary teams is highly encouraged.**
4. **Eligible project costs include:** RA and trainee salaries; publication costs; database, software licenses, and other research infrastructure costs; project- and KT-related travel and events costs; research expendables; research participant gifts and honoraria**.**
5. **Partner contributions are desirable, to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are committed to the project’s success.**
6. **Awarded Principal Applicants will be asked to submit Annual Outcomes Reports, and to serve on ensuing Catalyst decision panels.**
7. **Although early-stage projects are prioritized, Catalyst awards also may be used to bridge or complement contemporaneous external funding proposals. The submitted external application or pending draft submission may be appended (to support Question 4); the limited extent of the Catalyst project, in relation to the broader project described in the external proposal, must be made clear in the Catalyst application. A Catalyst Award may be used in conjunction with an eventually successful external award, to augment the total project funding and should be spent, as proposed in the Catalyst application, on the earliest phase of the broader project.**

**If applicable, indicate the contemporaneous external funding opportunity to which a proposal linked to the Catalyst project is being/has been submitted, and append the application summary: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. **Awarded projects will support the priorities of one or more of the stakeholder groups contributing to the Catalyst award funding pool** (see next page)**.** In this competition, collaborating University of Calgary entities are offering to provide half the value of a requested Catalyst award, up to $7,500.
2. **(continued) Indicate the alignment of the proposed project** by checking the appropriate box(es), with consideration toward the criteria provided for each potential funding partner:

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| **O’Brien Institute Learning Health Systems focus areaa** |  |
| **O’Brien Institute Digital Health focus areab** |  |
| **O’Brien Institute’s Sex, Gender and Women’s Health Research Hubc priorities** |  |
| **Department of Clinical Neurosciencesd priorities** |  |
| **Department of Community Health Sciencese priorities** |  |
| **Department of Critical Care Medicinef priorities** |  |
| **Department of Emergency Medicineg priorities** |  |
| **Department of Family Medicineh priorities** |  |
| **Department of Medicinei priorities** |  |

1. **The O’Brien Institute for Public Health** ascribes to the concepts of **Learning Health Systems** shown [here](https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/learning-health-systems). Projects supported could include those: building/fostering community partnerships; engaging indigenous and/or equity deserving groups; improving workforce engagement; creating implementation and decision support tools; engaging patient and family partners in research; and using new data sources and technology to inform health system efficiency/effectiveness.
2. **The O’Brien Institute for Public Health’s**focus for**Digital Health**is to expand our capacity to adapt, evaluate and implement digital technologies for better health care.  Work is being led by the Institute’s [W21C](https://www.w21c.org/) and [Centre for Health Informatics](https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/centres/centre-health-informatics) members, working within the [Health Everywhere Hub](https://www.healtheverywherehub.ca/).  The Hub’s priority themes are: *Connectivity and Data Access; Remote Monitoring and Virtual Care; Bridging Community and Acute Care;*and*Integrated Innovation Ecosystem*. The Health Everywhere Hub has funding available through the Catalyst grant opportunity, specifically to support trainees doing digital health research. If you would like to include a request for trainee funding for consideration in this Catalyst application, please indicate “W21C funding request” in both Budget Tables of #6.  The Expense Table would include a description (trainee level and task) and estimated cost for the trainee(s), and the Funding Table would include the matching amount as a “Requested from W21C” funding source.

1. **The** **O’Brien Institute’s Sex, Gender and Women’s Health Research Hub (SGWH\*)** is dedicated to advancing research, knowledge translation, and implementation science to transform the delivery of female reproductive healthcare in Alberta. This internal competition will support Learning Health Systems and/or Digital Health projects that address critical gaps in research and care related to female reproductive health. Principal applicants must be, or be willing to become, members of both the O’Brien Institute and the SGWH\* team. Priority will be given to proposals that foster discovery, innovation, education, or knowledge implementation—particularly those that identify and address gaps in clinical care or medical education in the field of female reproductive health.
2. The **Department of Clinical Neurosciences** views Digital Health and Learning Health Systems as promising avenues for research aimed at improving outcomes in individuals affected by, or at risk of, neurological conditions or in need of rehabilitation. The department considers Digital Health to encompass research involving digitized technologies, tools, and platforms—including mobile health apps, wearable devices, telemedicine, electronic health records, artificial intelligence (AI), and digital therapeutics. The goal of this research could include determining risk, enhancing person-centered care, supporting self-management of chronic conditions, and/or enabling learning health systems. Ultimately, there should be a clear link between the research objectives, Digital Health and/or Learning Health Systems, and improving health-related quality of life. To be eligible for matching, the applicant should have a primary appointment within DCNS.
3. **The Department of Community Health Sciences** (CHS) ascribes to the concepts of Learning Health Systems shown [**here**](https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/learning-health-systems). Supported projects include those that fall under our Department’s North Star of ‘Healthy Societies’ and our commitment to ‘Advancing Health with Communities’. To be eligible for CHS matching funding, the Principal Applicant must have an appointment (primary or cross) in CHS.
4. The **Department of Critical Care Medicine** (DCCM) supports research within the Calgary Zone, and for this competition prioritizes projects focused on one or more aspects of Learning Health Systems and Digital Health that target critical care.  Examples include creation and implementation of health system performance and quality measures; data collation from clinical or other informatics systems; assessment and management of data quality; data transformation and/or integration among different systems; data visualization tools for health system performance or quality assessment; data query tools; provider-specific quality measures; artificial intelligence and the development of new, or assessment and optimization of existing, digital health tools aimed at improving the care of critically ill patients.  To be eligible for DCCM matching funding, the Principal Applicant or co-Applicant must have an appointment in DCCM.  Other affiliates of DCCM who cannot hold research funding at the University of Calgary (e.g., research staff, analysts, nursing and allied health staff) are encouraged to be included in the project as members of the research team.
5. **The Department of Emergency Medicine (DEM) is** dedicated to using cutting-edge technologies and methodologies to improve patient outcomes and inform health policy development around emergency care in Canada, with a focus on advocacy for marginalized populations.  Prioritized projects in learning health systems and digital health aim to evolve the way healthcare is delivered by leveraging real-time data, big data, artificial intelligence, and adaptive learning techniques, including for the optimization of emergency department operations management.  In alignment with the goals of the Catalyst program, the DEM will support projects that have the potential to build further research program(s) that will impact emergency medicine.  Eligible Principal Applicants or a Principal Co-Applicant will have a primary appointment in the DEM.
6. **The Department of Family Medicine (DFM)** aims to respond to the evolving needs of communities and our profession with research that focuses on advancing health equity, improving the capture and use of primary care data, and improving access to high quality health services. Strong partnerships with the community play an important role in driving improvements in care delivery tailored to meet community needs.  DFM will support projects that inform clinical practice and advance our understanding of primary care delivery. To be eligible for DFM matching funding, the Principal Applicant or co-Applicant must have primary appointment in DFM.
7. **The Department of Medicine (DoM)** supports a broad spectrum of research relevant to the patient populations and affected communities they serve. Like the O’Brien Institute, DoM prioritizes projects that “Value, support and promote the broad array of research and scholarship contributions of members, including initiatives focused on care delivery, discovery, innovation, education, and/or knowledge implementation.” To be eligible for DoM matching funding, the Principal Applicant or co-Principal Applicant must have primary appointment in DoM.

**A) Project Description**

1. Explain the short-term project for which Catalyst Funds are being requested, including how it is anticipated to catalyze longer-term research activities (2 page maximum)

**B) Project Team**

1. Append a CV for the Principal Applicant in a format convenient for the applicant (abbreviated format, if available), and summarize the roles and expertise of any co-applicants (0.25 page max)

**C) Alignment with Areas of Focus**

1. Briefly explain how the project and its anticipated longer-term outcomes contribute to **the O’Brien Institute areas of focus** **and/or other priorities** identified in Guideline #8 (0.5 page max)
2. Using the table below, expanded to no more than 1 page, outline:
   * the **external funding opportunities** that will be pursued (for how much, when, anticipated project title/summary) to continue the Catalyst-supported work;
   * the **anticipated academic outputs** (publications, training, dissemination activities, *etc.*) of the Catalyst project and the larger project/program it will leverage;
   * the anticipated and measurable **societal impacts** of the Catalyst project and the larger project/program it will leverage; and
   * the **pathways and partnerships** through which the project/program will achieve its measurable societal impacts.

### PROPOSED BENCHMARKS OF CATALYST PROJECT (and leveraged Project/Program)

### Indicate the deliverables or milestones relevant for the project, and when these milestones will reasonably be achieved. Examples include external applications for research funding, presentations, publications, graduation of trainees, partnership interactions, policy recommendations, *etc*. Note that this information will be used to both: i) assess feasibility/ambition of the project, and ii) evaluate progress as part of Catalyst Program assessment.

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| **Deliverable, milestone, activity** | **Target Date** |
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**D) Project Logistics**

1. Estimate the **timelines** of expending the Catalyst Funds (ideally 12 months, up to 2 years), indicating relevant project milestones (0.3 page max)
2. Provide a **budget** for the project: outline anticipated expenses for the entire Catalyst (early stage) project, and indicate what partner funding (including O’Brien Catalyst Funds) has been requested or secured to cover those costs (*i.e*. the TOTAL lines of the two tables should match). If partner funding has been requested and denied by a relevant partner, please include a summary or copy of that interaction. Partner funding for other phases of the broader project can be outlined below the table.

**EXPENSES of Catalyst (early stage) project**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Item/Explanation | Estimated Cost |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| TOTAL PROJECT COST |  |

**FUNDING of Catalyst (early stage) project**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Source | Amount | Requested\* or Secured? |
| O’Brien Institute Catalyst Funds |  |  |
| Partner Source 1 |  |  |
| Partner Source 2 |  |  |
| *etc.* |  |  |
| TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING |  |  |

\*For any of the funds that are not yet Secured, please provide a “Plan B” – *e.g*. would a reduced project scope be feasible with the lower total budget, or would the project be cancelled indefinitely, with a Catalyst allocation offered by the O’Brien Institute being declined?

Submit completed template and CV to [iph@ucalgary.ca](mailto:iph@ucalgary.ca)