

**O’Brien Institute for Public Health *Healthier Populations* Catalyst Grants**

**Guidelines and Application Template 2025**

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| **Principal Applicant:** |  |
| **Faculty/Department Affiliation(s):** |  |
| **Project Title:** |  |
| **Catalyst Funds Requested:** | **$** |
| **Submission Date:** |  |

**Catalyst Grant Guidelines**

1. **Eligibility:**
   * The Principal Applicant must be an [O’Brien Institute member](https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/membership) eligible to hold funds at the University of Calgary. Trainees, O’Brien members ineligible to hold funds at the University, and non-O’Brien members are eligible project team members.
   * For Catalyst grants with match-funding from a collaborating Faculty or Department, the Principal Applicant must also have a primary or cross-appointment in the respective Faculty or Department (Community Health Sciences, Kinesiology, Arts or Nursing).
2. **Purpose of the Catalyst grant:**
   * Catalyst grants are not intended to fund a complete project: these smaller awards ($10,000 - $15,000) support the early stage(s) of projects.
   * Catalyst grants are anticipated to yield larger projects and external funding awards within 24 months, academic outputs within 1–3 years, and societal benefits within 2–5 years.
   * Use of Catalyst grants to launch new interdisciplinary teams is highly encouraged.
3. **Eligible project costs:** Research assistant and trainee salaries; publication costs; database, software licenses, and other research infrastructure costs; knowledge translation and project-related travel and events costs; research expendables; research participant gifts and honoraria.

1. **Partner contributions** are desirable to demonstrate stakeholder commitment to the project’s success.

1. **Reporting requirements:**
   * Awarded Principal Applicants will be asked to submit annual outcomes reports and a [Knowledge Engagement Impact Story](https://research.ucalgary.ca/engage-research/knowledge-engagement/ke-toolkit) which assesses engagement with community partners.
   * Awarded Principal Applicants may be asked to serve on future Catalyst grant review panels.
2. **Relationship to external funding:**
   * While early-stage projects are prioritized, Catalyst funds may be used to bridge or complement other external funding proposals.
   * If the Catalyst project is part of a broader initiative, the application must clearly define its limited scope in relation to the larger project.
   * If applicable, applicants may attach an external application or draft to support their proposal.
   * If an external award is later secured, the Catalyst grant may augment the total project funding but must be spent as proposed - on the earliest phase of the broader project.

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**Indicate which areas of focus are supported by the proposed project:**

Awarded projects will support the priorities of one or more funding partners contributing to the Catalyst award funding pool (see below). For this competition, collaborating University of Calgary Faculties and Departments will cover 50% of a requested Catalyst award, up to a maximum of $7,500.

To demonstrate alignment of the proposed project, **please check the appropriate box(es)** with consideration toward the priorities provided for each potential funding partner:

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| [**O’Brien Institute’s**](https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/OBrien-Institute-strategic-plan-2022-2027) **Health Equityfocus area**  The O’Brien Institute for Public Health prioritizes health equity by addressing upstream determinants of population health inequities. Supported projects should foster collaborative, intersectional research that engages community partnerships, including Indigenous and other equity-deserving communities. The goal is to mobilize health equity research to drive policy and practice changes, tackling structural challenges through a health equity lens.  **Are you already a member of the** [**Health Equity Hub**](https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/health-equity-hub/home)**?** Yes  No  **If not, would you like to become a member?** Yes  No |  |
| [**O’Brien Institute’s**](https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/OBrien-Institute-strategic-plan-2022-2027) **Prevention focus area**  The O’Brien Institute for Public Health advances research that examines the underlying causes of morbidity and mortality in populations across all ages and that accelerates prevention strategies to improve population health. Examples of possible prevention focus areas may include advancing data science and public health surveillance, addressing modifiable determinants and risk factors, surveillance improving immunization and cancer screening rates, informing strategic health communication, and advancing health equity. Other areas of prevention research are also eligible. |  |
| **O’Brien Institute’s** [**Centre for Health Policy**](https://obrieniph.ucalgary.ca/centre/health-policy/home)**priorities**  The Centre for Health Policy supports transdisciplinary research to develop evidence-informed policy options that strengthen public health. Research should provide thought leadership by evaluating policy effectiveness, exploring innovative and practical solutions, and embedding equity considerations in policy development. Collaboration with government, community organizations, and other stakeholders ensures relevance, impact, and alignment with regional and national public health priorities. |  |
| **Department of** [**Community Health Sciences**](https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/community-health-sciences/home) **priorities**  Supported projects should align with the department’s North Star of ‘Healthy Societies’ and its commitment to ‘Advancing Health with Communities’. To be eligible for CHS matching funding, the Principal Applicant must have a primary or cross-appointment in the Department of Community Health Sciences. |  |
| [**Faculty of Kinesiology**](https://kinesiology.ucalgary.ca/) **priorities**  Supported projects will bridge kinesiology and population health. Any area of kinesiology research is eligible, providing a link to population health is articulated. To be eligible for matching funding, the Principal Applicant must have a primary or cross-appointment in the Faculty of Kinesiology. |  |
| [**Faculty of Arts**](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/) **priorities**  The Faculty of Arts fosters interdisciplinary research linked to population health, particularly through its *Health and Wellness* strategic priority, which takes a holistic approach to physical, mental, and emotional well-being and addresses the social determinants of health. Other relevant strategic priorities include “Justice, Equity, and Transformation”, “Connection, Community, and Culture” and “Digital Futures”. To be eligible for matching funding, the Principal Applicant must have a primary or cross-appointment in the Faculty of Arts. |  |
| [**Faculty of Nursing**](https://nursing.ucalgary.ca/) **priorities**  The Faculty of Nursing advances population health through transformative education, research, and community engagement. Key priorities include “Increasing access to future-focused healthcare education”; “Amplifying the power of research and innovation to tackle the biggest health, wellness, and societal challenges”; and “Centering community in nursing practice”. To be eligible for matching funding, the Principal Applicant must have a primary or cross-appointment in the Faculty of Nursing. |  |

**Catalyst Grant Application Template**

1. **Project Description (max 2 pages)**

Describe the short-term project for which Catalyst Funds are being requested, including how it is anticipated to catalyze longer-term research activities.

1. **Project Team (max 0.25 page + CV attachment)**

Attach 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 and collaborators.

1. **Alignment with Areas of Focus (max 0.5 page)**

Briefly explain how the project and its anticipated longer-term outcomes contribute to the **O’Brien Institute and/or contributing Department and Faculties priority areas** as identified on the application’s cover page.

### Proposed Benchmarks and Impact (max 1 page)

Using the table below, expanded to no more than 1 page, outline:

* + **External funding opportunities** that will be pursued (amount, timeline, anticipated project title/summary) to continue the Catalyst-supported work.
  + **Anticipated academic outputs:** publications, training, dissemination activities etc that the Catalyst project and the larger project/program will leverage.
  + **Anticipated and measurable** **societal impacts** of the Catalyst project and the larger project/program; and
  + **Pathways and partnerships** through which the project/program will achieve its measurable societal impacts.

### Indicate the key deliverables or milestones and expected completion dates (e.g., funding applications, presentations, publications, trainee graduations, partnership interactions, policy recommendations, etc). This information will be used to i) assess the feasibility and 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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1. **Project Logistics (max 0.3 page)**

Provide an estimated **timeline** for using the Catalyst Funds (ideally within 12 months, up to 2 years). Indicate major project milestones.

1. **Budget**

Provide a budget for the project, outlining the 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 explain your **contingency plan** (“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)