

# Research Funding

## INTRODUCTION

The College and Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) has the authority under the *Health Professions Act*<sup>1</sup> (HPA) to carry out its activities in a manner that protects and serves the public interest.

The CLPNA funds research about the practical nurse profession and practice. Quality research advances knowledge and helps the CLPNA meet its mandate of protecting the public through improving the health, safety, and quality of care of Albertans.

In 2020, legislation was enacted to allow for the future regulation of Health Care Aides (HCAs) in Alberta. When the legislation is brought into force, HCAs will be regulated as a distinct profession within the CLPNA. In preparation, the CLPNA anticipates funding research aimed at informing HCA regulation.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline expectations for the appropriate use of funds by recipients of CLPNA research funding.

## POLICY

The CLPNA may enter into a funding agreement to grant research funds to an applicant seeking to conduct research regarding the LPN profession or the regulation of HCAs.

Recipients of research funding from the CLPNA must use the granted amount towards allowable research expenses described in the research proposal and outlined in this policy. Research expenses must not differ significantly from the original proposal without approval from the CLPNA.

The CLPNA reserves the right to terminate any funding if the recipient does not adhere to the terms of the funding agreement and this policy.

### Award Process

The CLPNA may award available research funds to proposals that meet the CLPNA's research requirements. These research proposals may be awarded through a Request for Proposals or through targeted research partnerships.

### Funding Process and Term Limits

Funds from grants made by the CLPNA are paid to the recipient's institution or organization and are provided in one installment at the beginning of the research project. The grant recipient must ensure any required ethics approval to complete the proposed project is obtained and must provide the CLPNA

with the ethics approval ID or number. If a grant recipient fails to obtain ethics approval, the CLPNA may terminate the funding agreement and the recipient must return the full award amount.

Typically, funds are granted on a one-year term, but a multi-year term may be agreed to if deemed reasonable for the proposed project. Extensions to the original term may be granted with justification. The recipient must submit a request for an extension in writing. Approval from the CLPNA is required. Previous grant recipients are eligible to apply for and receive future research grant funding.

Recipients are to contact the Department of Performance Measurement and Research if there are any unused funds. Unused funds must be returned to the CLPNA unless a project extension is granted, or an alternate arrangement is made in writing.

### **Allowable Expenses**

Funding from the CLPNA may be used in addition to funding from another source (for example, matching funds) or as seed funding to support preliminary research including pilot and feasibility studies. Funds may be used to support the salary of a research assistant or trainee while the trainee is completing research on the funded project.

Funding must go to research activities only and must not be used for institutional overhead or administration costs. Recipients may use funds for participant honorarium, the cost of minor equipment and supplies, laboratory charges, and travel expenses for activities related to the research.

### **Alterations to the Project**

Recipients must obtain written approval from the CLPNA prior to any substantial alterations on the initial project idea, timelines, and/or budget. The CLPNA reserves the right to terminate support and funding if changes to the research activity are substantial or if the research project is cancelled. Under these circumstances, any unused funds must be returned to the CLPNA.

### **Authorship and Publication**

Research partners will be considered for authorship on any academic works based on their contribution to the written work or presentation.

The CLPNA encourages recipients to publish CLPNA-funded work in open access journals using the funding provided by the CLPNA.

Funding from the CLPNA is to be acknowledged in posters, presentations, and any public facing outputs of the research supported by the CLPNA unless the CLPNA directs that it does not wish to be acknowledged.

Please contact the CLPNA's Department of Performance Measurement and Research for information about how to acknowledge the CLPNA and for access to the CLPNA logo. A recipient, or any other person, must not use the CLPNA logo or any other trademark of the CLPNA without the written consent of the CLPNA.

The CLPNA may facilitate the opportunity for the results to be shared in CLPNA communications such as a CLPNA web news article.

### **Reporting Requirements**

Recipients of funding from the CLPNA must prepare a final report of the funded research project. This report must include recommendations stemming from the research findings, a record of outputs resulting from the funding, and a final statement of expenditures that includes a variance analysis of differences between the proposed budget and final expenditures.

If the project is extended beyond one year, the recipient of funding must provide an annual report in addition to the final report.

### **CONCLUSION**

The CLPNA provides funding for research that builds knowledge about the practical nurse profession and contributes to scientific research. The CLPNA may also fund research aimed at informing the future regulation of HCAs.

If after reading this document you have any questions about research funding, please contact the Department of Performance Measurement and Research via email at [pmr@clpna.com](mailto:pmr@clpna.com), or by phone at 780-484-8886 or 1-800-661-5877 (toll free in Alberta).

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<sup>1</sup> College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta. Health Professions Act HPA.  
[https://www.clpna.com/governance/legislation/.](https://www.clpna.com/governance/legislation/)