

HEALTH PROMOTION EXPLORATORY RESEARCH GRANTS

OPEN ROUND

STAGE 1 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) GUIDELINES

SECTION A - FUNDING GUIDELINES

Healthway, the Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation, operates under the *Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation Act 2016* and funds activities relating to the promotion of good health. This includes funding health promotion research projects. Healthway funds practical research that can demonstrate real-world applicability, with direct links to health promotion policy and practice in Western Australia (WA).

Each year, Healthway undertakes one Open Research Round and one Targeted Research Round for both the Exploratory and Intervention grant categories. These guidelines are for the 2020 Open Exploratory Research Round.

1. ABOUT THESE GUIDELINES

These Guidelines provide an outline of the 2020 Open Exploratory Research Round, including key dates, eligibility, requirements and the application and assessment process.

Before applying:

1. Ensure that all of the eligibility criteria for funding can be met.
2. Read the Healthway Strategic Plan Active Healthy People 2018-2023 for consideration of priority areas and target groups.
3. Consider the key dates for submission of applications as outlined in Section 5.
4. Read the requirements for grants funding including the application and assessment process.

It is requested that you contact the Health Promotion and Research Team at Healthway to discuss your proposal prior to its submission on 9488 6700 or email research@healthway.wa.gov.au

2. THE 2020 OPEN RESEARCH ROUND – EXPLORATORY GRANTS

Healthway's 2020 Exploratory Research Grants will provide funding to eligible organisations for exploratory or formative studies that address gaps in health promotion research, with demonstrated potential and intent to impact policy, programs and practice in WA, and improve health outcomes for the community. These grants may lead to the development of larger studies to trial interventions.

A key feature of Healthway's Exploratory Research Grants is a focus on knowledge translation, and researchers are required to demonstrate how their research outcomes will be applied in practice to lead to improvements in health.

In 2020, in response to the unique challenges faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Healthway is particularly interested in the submission of EoIs that address the impacts of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of the WA community. Further detail about this is provided in Section 3.

Funding limits for this scheme are up to \$75,000 (excluding GST) for up to two (2) years. These grants are primarily intended for salary support, project and support costs.

3. HEALTH PROMOTION PRIORTIES FOR FUNDING

Research proposals that investigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the WA community are strongly encouraged.

Of particular interest is COVID-19 focused research proposals that are aligned to at least one of Healthway's strategic priorities of increasing healthy eating, increasing physical activity, improving mental health, preventing harm from alcohol, creating a smoke-free WA and Aboriginal health.

Emerging evidence is indicating that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on community health and wellbeing. Potential areas of COVID-19 research involving or leading to the development, implementation and evaluation of an intervention, may include:

- » The marketing practices of unhealthy brands and impacts on purchasing behaviours;
- » The impact of social distancing and isolation on social connection and mental health;
- » Changes to health behaviours including eating habits and dietary choices; physical activity, exercise and sedentary behaviours; alcohol consumption; and tobacco and/or smoking use; and
- » Community receptiveness and approaches to the social marketing of health promotion messages.

Proposals that do NOT address the health impacts of COVID-19, or Healthway's specific priorities will be accepted and will be assessed in accordance with criteria provided in Section 4.

4. APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Applications for Healthway research funding involve a two-stage process: stage one, the submission of an Expression of Interest (Eoi) by the applicant and stage two, the submission of a full application following invitation by Healthway. All applications should be submitted through the applying institution's Research Grants Office via email to: research@healthway.wa.gov.au

Stage 1: Eoi Assessment

Eois will be assessed by Healthway staff in consultation with relevant research experts and external agencies at the discretion of Healthway.

Eois that adequately address the requirements outlined in section 7 will be invited to submit a (Stage 2) full application. Formal correspondence will be sent through the responsible officer of the administering institution and a Stage 2 application form will be provided. Healthway will provide high level feedback and guidance on any areas that may need to be addressed in the full application.

Stage 2: Full Application Assessment

All full (Stage 2) applications will be assessed by the Healthway Research Assessment Committee and experts from outside of WA. External agencies, additional experts and project partners may also be consulted at the discretion of Healthway.

Full (stage 2) applications will be scored against the following criteria:

1. Ability to directly improve community health outcomes.
2. Development and/or contribution of the research to best practice strategies in health promotion.
3. The quality of the translation plan to demonstrate how the findings will be integrated into current practice and achieve sustainable, community health outcomes.
4. The relevance of end-user partnerships, and appropriateness of the collaboration and engagement strategies.
5. Strength and rigour of the rationale and methodology (including literature review, research design, sample selection, methodology and cultural appropriateness, if appropriate).
6. Track record, multi-disciplinary composition (where appropriate) and capability of the research team.
Performance and outputs from previously held Healthway research grants will be taken into consideration, where appropriate. This will include the quality of reports provided to Healthway from previously held research grants.
7. Appropriateness of the budget, and overall value for money in regard to the contribution of this research to health promotion in WA.

In addition to the above, within the assessment process, loadings will be applied to applications that address the below criterion:

1. The alignment to Healthway's priority health issues and/or target groups; and
2. Ability to address the community physical and/or mental health impact(s) of the COVID-19 pandemic to inform future health promotion programs and policy in WA.

Board and Ministerial approval

All funding decisions will be made by the Healthway Board. The Board reserves the right to contact any person or organisation when seeking information on which to base its decisions. Decisions made by the Board also require Minister approval.

5. KEY DATES

Key Steps	Key Dates
Open Research Round opens	Wednesday 24 June 2020
Expressions of Interest due	Friday 28 August 2020 by 5pm
Announcement of successful Expressions of Interest for Stage 2	Friday 25 September 2020
Stage 2 (full applications) due	Friday 6 November 2020 by 5pm
Announcement of successful grant applicants	April/May 2021*

*Please note that this date is an estimate, we are unable to provide an exact date due to Board decisions requiring sign off by the Minister for Health.

6. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for Healthway research funding, a number of criteria applies.

Western Australian based research

- » At least one Chief Investigator must be based and reside in WA for the duration of the grant.
- » The first named Chief Investigator and the administering organisation may be based outside of WA as long as the central focus of the research is on WA.
- » The majority of grant monies should be spent in WA.

Aboriginal health research

- » At least one (1) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person must be named as a Chief Investigator.
- » The proposed research must align with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Ethical Conduct in Research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities: Guidelines for Researchers and Stakeholders 2018.
- » Aboriginal community members must be engaged in the development and implementation of the research.
- » A culturally secure research design and methodology must be demonstrated.

Other criteria

- » Incorporated organisations (includes not for profit, companies and statutory bodies) are eligible to apply for Healthway research funding.
- » Applying organisations must have access to an Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) to ensure that any project which includes research involving humans is reviewed and approved by that Committee as complying with the relevant National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Ethics Program.
- » Research groups/organisations or individuals who are receiving support from funding bodies associated with the tobacco industry are not eligible for funding.

7. REQUIREMENTS

What will NOT be considered for funding:

- » An EOI for the same or a similar study that has already been submitted for an Intervention Research Grant in the same financial year.
- » Similar research that is being funded elsewhere.
- » Clinical or laboratory studies, or trials of treatments and therapies for existing conditions or diseases.
- » Studies that primarily focus on evaluating existing government services or policies will not be funded unless it can be demonstrated that the outcomes will have broader health promotion applicability and influence the practices of partner agencies that are external to the existing investment being evaluated.
- » Research that is limited to adaptations or simplified extensions to existing programs will not be prioritised.

To be considered for funding, an EoI MUST:

- » Demonstrate direct relevance of the project to health promotion, and ability for the research to contribute to new evidence that will inform health promotion practice and/or policy in the areas identified in section 3.
- » Demonstrate that the proposed project addresses a current gap in health promotion research.
- » Demonstrate a clear pathway to a health promotion program or policy.
- » Clearly demonstrate how the proposed research will improve community health outcomes in WA.
- » Provide an outline of a translation plan which describes how the research will be translated to inform policy or practice.
- » Demonstrate that the research team has the relevant expertise and is multidisciplinary, where appropriate.

8. COMPLETING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please use the Stage 1 Expression of Interest Form (Exploratory Research Grants) to complete your EoI. Details on how to complete the form are provided in Section B of these Guidelines.

9. SUBMISSION

Please email completed EoIs to research@healthway.wa.gov.au via the responsible officer of the administering institution, generally the Research Grants Office by 5pm on Friday 28 August 2020. Please contact your institution's Research Grants Office prior to submission as they may have an earlier closing date.

Please adhere to the stated space and word limitations on the EoI as exceeding the word limits may render the EoI ineligible.

All applicants will be notified approximately four (4) weeks from the closing date for the EoI submissions on the outcome of their EoI. Successful applicants will have an additional six (6) weeks from this date to submit their Stage 2 (full) application.

SECTION B - COMPLETING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Information required	Word/ Character count	Explanation
1. Administering Institution details		
1. Administering Institution details	75 characters (including spaces)	The full name of the institution responsible for administering the grant. In instances where a research project is to be carried out in more than one location, please only provide one administering institution for each grant.
2. Contact person – Chief Investigator A		
2. Contact person – Chief Investigator A	Complete table	Full contact details of the Chief Investigator A.
3. Eligibility		
3. Eligibility	Check relevant boxes	Confirmation of the eligibility requirements (explained in more detail in Section 6 of these guidelines). Please note that Chief Investigators are responsible for ensuring they adhere to eligibility requirements prior to submission. Changes to the nominated Chief Investigators in order to adhere to the rules are not permitted after the EOI has been submitted.
4. Project title		
4. Project title	75 characters (including spaces)	Nomination of the project title that will be used by Healthway to identify the project. The title should accurately describe the nature of the project and be understandable to the general community.
5. Alignment with Healthway priorities		
5a. Alignment with Healthway priorities	Check relevant boxes	Alignment to Healthway strategic priorities or nomination of another health promotion priority issue. The priorities should be checked on the application form. If a health promotion issue that falls outside of Healthway's strategic priorities is the focus of the research, please contact Healthway to discuss the application prior to submission. A strong justification for the research will be necessary. For more information on Healthway's strategic priorities refer to the Strategic Plan Active Healthy People: 2018-2023
5b. Alignment with the COVID-19 context	150 words	Demonstration of alignment to the physical or mental health related impacts of COVID-19, as it relates to one or more of Healthway's strategic priorities. Please also note any particular issues that will be considered when undertaking research within the COVID-19 context including any barriers to implementation. If the proposal does not address COVID-19, please state N/A in this section.
6. Project Description		
6.1 Rationale/justification for the research	200 words	Rationale for the need for the research. Include an explanation on what new evidence this research will provide, how it addresses a current gap in health promotion research and how it will improve health outcomes of the target group. Please demonstrate that this research will not duplicate similar research being funded from elsewhere. Please include appropriate references to support the justification.
6.2 Describe the proposed research project	200 words	Describe the research project, main activities and the context and background where appropriate.
6.3 List the proposed research objectives	150 words	State the specific and quantifiable objectives. These can still be in draft form and can be refined in the full application if the EOI is successful.
6.4 Research methods	150 words	Summarise the proposed study design, including the instruments and methods of data collection. Scientific rigour will not be assessed in the EOI, so technical and specific detail on sample size, validity, recruitment methods and statistical power calculations are not required here.
6.5 Research outcomes, and benefits to the WA community	200 words	Explain how this research will be used and contribute to best practice in health promotion and improving community health outcomes in WA.

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7. Proposed Translation Strategies		
7. Research translation strategies	300 words	<p>Outline the plan to translate the results of the study to ensure the research outcomes will influence programs, policy or other health promotion activities in the WA community.</p> <p>Describe the programs or policies currently operating and by whom, to demonstrate how the research will add value to existing work or inform new policies and programs in WA.</p> <p>This section needs to demonstrate how the research will be translated beyond traditional communication and dissemination strategies such as journal publications and presentations.</p>
8. Collaboration and Partner Agencies		
8. Partnerships with relevant agencies, organisations and Aboriginal community	Complete table	<p>All applicants are required to establish partnerships with relevant individuals and/or organisations that will assist with the translation of findings into policy or practice. Please provide the name/s of the individuals and/or organisations and detail the nature and level of support that will be provided to the proposed research. Partnerships can be under negotiation and unconfirmed in the Eoi but must be confirmed upon submission of the full application.</p> <p>It is desirable that key partners be appointed to the research team, advisory committee or steering group. Please note that for Aboriginal health research, it is a requirement that Aboriginal community members be engaged in the development and implementation of the research.</p> <p>Space is provided for up to six (6) partners. Additional partners can be added if necessary. Please email research@healthway.wa.gov.au for a template to add additional representatives.</p>
9. Chief Investigators and the Research Team		
9. Chief Investigators and the Research Team	Complete table	<p>List all the Chief Investigators and Associate Investigators in the research team. It is generally expected that Chief Investigators will have a significant role in implementing and guiding the research project. At least one Chief Investigator must be based and reside in WA for the duration of the grant.</p> <p>At least one (1) Aboriginal person should be named as a Chief Investigator if the research focuses on Aboriginal health.</p> <p>An Associate Investigator (AI) is defined as an investigator who provides some intellectual and/or practical input into the research and whose participation warrants inclusion of their name on publications.</p> <p>All applications are required to have a multi-disciplinary team, where appropriate, for example an epidemiologist, statistician, health promotion researcher and a health promotion practitioner. Please identify the skills of the research team and note if they are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.</p> <p>Space is provided for ten (10) Investigators. Please contact research@healthway.wa.gov.au for a template to add additional members to the research team.</p>
10. Indicative Budget		
10. Budget	Complete table	<p>Provide an indicative cost of the research project including the total amount requested from Healthway and the total in-kind and cash committed by others. Please note that Healthway will not generally support salary costs in the grant at a Professor or Associate Professor level and salary on-costs are capped at 30%.</p> <p>It is a requirement that the majority of the research funds be spent in WA.</p> <p>Do not include GST in the budget.</p>
11. Dates		
11. Dates	Complete table	Please outline the proposed start date and finish date of the study. The start date must be on or after 1st Jun 2021 due to the assessment and approval processes.
12. Other Funding		
12a. Submission of application to other Funders	Complete table	Only complete this section if the same application is being submitted for total funding to another funding body.
12b. Other Funding Partners	Complete table	Healthway encourages joint funding of health promotion research projects. Jointly funded applications will be considered where the major emphasis of the research is health promotion and such applications should clearly identify which of the project objectives can be achieved should the application for funding from other partners be unsuccessful.
13. Certification		
13. Signatures of Chief Investigators and Certification by the Administering Research Office	Complete table	<p>The Eoi is invalid without the signature(s) of those listed as Chief Investigator(s), and the Administering Organisation's Research Office, who is certifying that the facilities available are appropriate to meet the needs of the project.</p> <p>Electronic signatures will be accepted.</p> <p>Where applicants are not formally attached to institutions, they should certify whether they have access to appropriate facilities to undertake the research proposal.</p>