



Exploratory Research Grants
2021 Targeted Round:

Priority-driven Policy Research for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

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 Targeted Research Round and one Open Research Round for its Exploratory and Intervention Research Grants. These guidelines are for the 2021 Targeted Research Round – Exploratory Grants.

In line with Healthway's priorities, the focus of the 2021 Targeted Research Round is to support research which will contribute to evidence-based policy and regulatory initiatives to increase healthy eating and/or, promote physical activity/reduce sedentary behaviour for the purposes of obesity prevention.

This recognises the importance of the upstream determinants of overweight and obesity which includes factors that are largely beyond the control of the individual and have significant effects on other, more downstream determinants.

1. About these guidelines

These Guidelines provide an outline of the 2021 Exploratory Targeted Research Round, including key dates, eligibility, requirements and the application and assessment process.

Before applying:

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

Please contact the Health Promotion and Research Team at Healthway to discuss your proposal prior to its submission on 133 777 or email research@healthway.wa.gov.au

2. The 2021 Exploratory Targeted Research Round

Healthway's 2021 Exploratory Targeted Research Grants will provide funding to eligible organisations for research projects that will address gaps in policy-relevant obesity prevention research, with demonstrated potential and intent to impact and improve healthy eating and/or physical activity (obesity prevention) outcomes for the WA community.

A key feature of Healthway's Targeted Research Grants is a focus on knowledge translation. Applicants are required to demonstrate how their research will be used to inform and influence obesity prevention policies in the WA context.

The funding limit for this scheme is 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. Priority-driven Policy Research for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

Healthway is calling for applications that focus on policy-relevant research to increase healthy eating and/or promote physical activity/reduce sedentary behaviour (obesity prevention).

Research proposals must be aligned to Healthway's health promotion, primary prevention approach and a knowledge translation plan must be provided which demonstrates strong potential for the research to inform and influence policy. Appropriate partner agencies must be engaged to support the knowledge translation activities.

Applicants are encouraged to submit applications aligned with the obesity-related recommendations in the final report of the [Sustainable Health Review \(2019\)](#) and the 2014 report of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency and Department of Health Western Australia, [A Priority-Driven Research Agenda for Obesity Prevention](#).

Some examples of research projects considered appropriate include but are not limited to:

- » The impact of different policy instruments such as planning laws on the level of access and exposure of unhealthy food promotions to children
- » Cost-effectiveness of policy interventions to reduce food and beverage marketing to children through multiple forms of media
- » Holistic approaches to prevention strategies for childhood obesity focussing on community-based initiatives
- » Effective framing of healthy eating and/or physical activity messaging for parents and children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and/or other groups experiencing disproportionate harms
- » Social policy options to improve access to a variety of safe, nutritious foods, particularly for disadvantaged groups
- » Identifying strategies to increase recreational and transport-related physical activity
- » Best practice in planning for built environments that support physical activity and/or healthy eating.

4. Application and assessment process

Applications for Healthway research funding involves 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: healthway@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 inform and influence community health outcomes.
2. Development and/or contribution of the research to obesity prevention policy.
3. The quality of the translation plan to demonstrate how the findings will inform or influence obesity-related policy or practice.
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 including relevant expertise in health promotion. 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 obesity policy.

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 approval by the Minister for Health.

5. Key dates

Key Steps	Key Dates
Expressions of Interest due	Friday 29 January 2021 by 5pm
Announcement of successful Expressions of Interest for Stage 2	Friday 26 February 2021
Stage 2 (full applications) due	Friday 9 April 2021 by 5pm
Announcement of successful grant applicants	August/September 2021*

*Please note that these dates are an estimate. Timelines are dependent on the volume of applications received and the time required for Healthway Board and Ministerial processing and approval.

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 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.
- » Research involving an externally funded campaign or program must demonstrate the appropriate permissions have been provided from the program or campaign funder regarding trademarked properties.

7. Requirements

What will NOT be considered for funding:

- » An EOI for the same or a similar study that has already been submitted for a Healthway Research (Exploratory or Intervention) Grant in the same financial year.
- » Similar research that is being funded in its entirety elsewhere. Complimentary funding may be received from other funding bodies.
- » 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 research to obesity prevention policy.
- » Demonstrate that the proposed project addresses a current gap in research.
- » Demonstrate a clear pathway to nutrition or physical activity (obesity prevention) policy.
- » Clearly demonstrate how the proposed research will lead to obesity prevention outcomes in WA.
- » Provide an outline of a Knowledge Translation Plan which includes relevant stakeholders and describes how the research will be translated to inform and influence policies related to obesity prevention.
- » Demonstrate that the research team has the relevant expertise and is multidisciplinary, where appropriate.

Reporting:

Successful applicants (following Stage 2) will be required to submit annual project reports at the end of each year of

the project, and a final report detailing the project outcomes following completion of the project.

In addition, a one or two page “Community Stakeholder Brief” which includes an outline of the research, its policy-relevant outcomes and next steps is to be provided to all participating stakeholder and community groups (including Aboriginal communities where relevant). A copy of this must be submitted to Healthway for publishing on the Healthway website.

Annual and final financial reports are also required to be submitted with project reports. These should outline the expenditure of funds in line with the approved budget and must be certified by an authorised finance officer at the administering institution.

8. Completing an expression of interest

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

9. Submission

Please email completed EOIs to healthway@healthway.wa.gov.au via the responsible officer of the administering institution, generally the Research Grants Office by **5pm on Friday 29 January 2021**. 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 APPLICATION

Information required	Word/ Character count	Explanation
Administrative details		
1. Administering Institution details	Complete table	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	Complete table	Full contact details of the Chief Investigator A.
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	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.
Project Description		
5.1 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 to support obesity prevention policy, how it addresses a current gap in research and how it will achieve health outcomes. Please demonstrate that this research will not duplicate similar research being funded in its entirety elsewhere. Please include in text references to support the justification or include a reference list as an attachment.
5.2 Describe the proposed research project	150 words	Describe the research project, main activities and the context and background where appropriate.
5.3 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.

SECTION B – COMPLETING AN APPLICATION (Continued)

Information required	Word/ Character count	Explanation
5.4 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.
5.5 Research outcomes, and benefits to the WA community	200 words	Explain how this research will be used and contribute to best practice obesity prevention and improve community health outcomes in WA.
Proposed Translation Strategies		
6. Research translation strategies	300 words	This section needs to demonstrate how the research will be translated beyond traditional communication and dissemination strategies such as journal publications, presentations and website materials.
		Outline the plan to translate the results of the study to ensure the research outcomes will influence obesity-related policy and other health promotion activities (if relevant) in the WA community.
		Describe the current policy context, identify relevant stakeholders and provide evidence there is a realistic opportunity and plan for the research to inform new policies or policy change in WA.
		Nominate key policy actors, advocacy or other groups who can assist with policy-relevant work and describe the specific strategies you will implement to progress change.
Collaboration and Partner Agencies		
7. Partnerships with relevant partner organisations and community groups.	Complete table	All applicants are required to establish partnerships with relevant individuals and/or organisations that 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.
		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.
		Space is provided for up to six (6) partners. Additional partners can be added if necessary.

SECTION B – COMPLETING AN APPLICATION (Continued)

Information required	Word/ Character count	Explanation
Chief Investigations and the Research Team		
8. 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, with appointment of a health promotion practitioner or health promotion expert. 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 add additional members to the research team if necessary.</p>
Indicative Budget		
9. 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. 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>\$75,000 is provided for up to two years.</p> <p>Do not include GST in the budget.</p>
10. Dates	Complete table	<p>Please outline the proposed start date and finish date of the study. The start date must be on or after 1 October 2021 due to the assessment and approval processes.</p> <p>Funding is provided for two (2) years; however, the project may be completed in 12 months or less.</p>

SECTION B – COMPLETING AN APPLICATION (Continued)

Information required	Word/ Character count	Explanation
Other Funding		
11a. 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.
11b. 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.
Certification		
12. 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>