

Q&As from the Webinar Introducing the New Program Model to Support Applied Research, Program Evaluation, Education and Professional Development and Knowledge Exchange in Public Health - January 21, 2011

- 1. Under the new program, will funding be allotted for summer-student placements at public health units (e.g. stipends for Master of Public Health students) through the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP) locally driven collaborative projects funding?**

Yes. [Locally driven collaborative project](#) proposals will be encouraged to include a budget line for the hiring of students.

- 2. Is OAHPP authorized to manage Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funds for local public health agencies? If so, what percentage of the grant will OAHPP withhold?**

OAHPP has recently submitted papers to CIHR to be able to hold CIHR funds, including funds for grants associated with health unit projects. OAHPP would need to withhold a portion of the funds to cover any OAHPP services related to the grant (e.g., an administration fee).

- 3. How do academics and academic institutions fit into the model for collaborative research?**

OAHPP encourages partnerships between academic institutions and public health units. Under the [locally driven collaborative projects](#), academic institutions can participate in a collaborative project. Although this initiative is not designed as an open grant process for academic institutions, it provides an opportunity for them to get involved in collaborative projects with health units in areas of public health research that don't necessarily get funded elsewhere.

- 4. Will researchers engaged in applied research in health units be eligible for funding?**

Yes, under the [locally driven collaborative projects](#) stream, health units, public health associations, community partners, and researchers with similar interests, experience, and knowledge in a topic area can collaborate and submit a project proposal.

Successful applicants will receive up to \$100,000 per project, and the funding can flow over one or two years. A total of \$400,000 has been allotted for each year. We expect that, collectively, the funded projects will cover a range of topics and priorities and may be of differing size or monetary requirements.

Funding criteria will focus on a project's potential to build capacity and generate new knowledge, as well as its transferability or applicability across the public health system. Reviewers will consider applications in light of the relevance of their project objectives, and their potential impact, feasibility, methodological appropriateness and analytical framework. Applications must be

submitted on a topic identified by the field, and must bring together health units of various sizes from different regions.

Criteria, tools and processes will be developed in collaboration with public health professionals that will guide health units with the submission of proposals for collaborative projects.

5. How will the shared library partnership model be determined?

Health units and other stakeholders (e.g., notably the Ontario Public Health Libraries Association and the Council of Medical Officers of Health) will participate in the process to determine the form the partnership will take and the means by which to deliver services. This new partnership will build on and complement the existing public health library infrastructure. Through the shared [library services](#) partnership, all 36 health units will have access to skilled library professionals and resources. Moreover, this partnership will function to maximize information-sharing, pool work and support knowledge exchange.

6. Will organizations and agencies outside of public health have an opportunity to contribute to the program by sharing their best practices, documents, etc?

Yes. A [web-based platform](#) is currently being developed as a virtual place for organizations, agencies and different communities of practice (many of which include a variety of public health partners) to collaborate and share best practices, documents and other tools and resources.