



## WE-SPARK HEALTH Institute Igniting Discovery Grants Program Rapid Response COVID-19 2020 Guidelines

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The WE-SPARK Igniting Discovery Grants Program was established as an annual grant program to invest in emerging, innovative and novel health research and education projects that are aligned with WE-SPARK HEALTH Institute's mission and strategic priorities.

### RESEARCH AREAS

This specific Igniting Discovery opportunity is a part of WE-SPARK's collective effort to locally address the public health challenges of COVID-19 outbreak. The funding will contribute to efforts to accelerate the development, testing, implementation of medical and social countermeasures to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak addressed by any of the following research areas:

1. Epidemiological studies
2. Development/ evaluation of diagnostics for detection and surveillance
3. Development of candidate vaccines
4. Development/identification of candidate therapeutics
5. Clinical characterization & disease management
6. Cultural dimensions of the epidemic
7. Public health response studies
8. Identification of approaches to support psychosocial needs of our society
9. Studies of logistics of response (infrastructure, transportation, etc.)
10. International relations
11. Communication/education surrounding the disease
12. Addressing medical shortages (including PPE, ventilators, etc.)

### ELIGIBILITY

#### To be eligible to apply, you must:

1. Be a Principle Applicant (PA) that holds a primary appointment at any of the four partner institutions (University of Windsor, St. Clair College, Windsor Regional Hospital, and Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare), and/or must be a Core member of WE-SPARK.
  - a. The term of affiliation must at least cover the proposed project period.
2. Not have secured funding for the research project you are proposing for this grant program.
3. Research work has to cover COVID-19 priority areas

#### Location of Project:

The research activity is expected to be primarily performed at 1 of the WE-SPARK Partner Institutions. If another location is proposed, strong justification must be provided.

## FUNDING

**One-year grant(s) for \$5,000** will be awarded and are expected to be used for approved research-related expenditures. This grant is intended to support research consumables and non-consumables, salaries for research personnel, and small equipment. For PAs whose primary affiliation is the University of Windsor, the VPRI will be providing matching funds of \$5,000 to successful awards. Budget is contingent upon approval.

There is no obligation for the Research Development Committee to dispense funds if applications do not meet the requirements of the award or if reviewers deem the application not appropriate for this funding opportunity. All awards are subject to the availability of funds.

### Management of Funds:

Funds will be administered either through 1) Office of Research & Innovation Services (ORIS) at the University of Windsor (for PAs holding an appointment at the University of Windsor, Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare and Windsor Regional Hospital); or 2) Applied Research & Development Office at St. Clair College (for PAs holding an appointment at St. Clair College).

### Conditions of Funding:

1. Should the applications be approved for funding, any Research Ethics Board, Animal Care, or Biosafety certifications necessary for the research must be active before funds will be released. This is the responsibility of the PA.
2. Funds not spent at the end of the one-year grant term may be extended for a reasonable period upon request. Unless otherwise arranged, funds not spent by the grant end date must be returned.
3. In publications and presentation to both academic and non-academic audiences, researchers funded through the Igniting Discovery Grants must acknowledge WE-SPARK HEALTH Institute's support through the use of the WE-SPARK logo or a statement (i.e. "This study was supported by an Igniting Discovery Grant from the WE-SPARK HEALTH Institute").
4. Upon completion of the grant, the PA will be responsible for completing a final report provided by respective offices at either the University of Windsor or St. Clair College.

## EVALUATION

### Evaluation Criteria:

<b>Responsiveness to the current Health Problem</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Is this addressing a current COVID-19 related issue that the partners identify as important</li><li>2. Is it addressing a major gap and/or in healthcare or health education?</li><li>3. Is the proposal original?</li></ol>
<b>Clarity and Conciseness of the Project</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Are the aims and objectives of the project clearly described?</li><li>2. Is the project aligned with WE-SPARK's mission and values?</li><li>3. Are the project outcomes/ anticipated results clearly outlined?</li></ol>
<b>Suitability of Project Design/ Project Plan</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Is the methodology appropriate, using proven research tools and/or techniques?</li><li>2. Is the project plan feasible, outlining metrics?</li></ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Can the project proposed realistically meet its timelines and deliverables?</li> <li>4. Is the research environment appropriate for the proposed project?</li> </ul>
<b>Appropriateness of Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the budget detailed and aligned with project goals?</li> <li>2. Is the budget appropriately justified?</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is there a demonstrated commitment or plan to spark new collaborations or continue current collaborations following the end period of the project?</li> </ul>

**Contact Information**

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