

2026-27 Hope Innovation Research Grant Guidelines Overview

Overview

Established through the generosity of Lloyd Alexander Hope, the Lung Health Foundation (LHF) Hope Innovation Research Grant supports innovative, transformative lung health research. The grant funds novel, high-risk/high-reward approaches and unconventional methodologies that address lung health challenges aligned with LHF's priority focus areas.

Purpose: Supports innovative, transformative, and ground-breaking lung health research, as well as creative problem solving. *Applications are encouraged from community-engaged and cross-disciplinary teams that bring together expertise from lung health, academia, industry, policy, engineering, data science, and other relevant fields.*

Funding Focus: Research in asthma, COPD, lung cancer, infectious respiratory disease (in the area of health promotion and prevention around Pneumococcal pneumonia, influenza, Covid-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus), and youth nicotine smoking or vaping (in the area of prevention, cessation and/or examining the effects of nicotine use on lung health).

Intended Audience: Researchers at all career stages, including incoming faculty, are eligible to apply.

Grant amount: Up to \$100,000 per grant.

Term: Two years.

Competition Timeline

December 7, 2026 – Intent to Apply Deadline

December 14, 2026 – Notification of Full Application Invitations

April 19, 2027 – Full Application Deadline

Summer 2027 – Applicants Notified of Funding Decisions

Eligibility Criteria for the Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA)

- Can submit only one application per funding cycle.
- Must not have received funding from LHF in the past two years (e.g., ESRA/CERA, or a past Hope Innovation recipient).
- Have a full-time appointment at an institution eligible to receive tri-council agency funding.
- Must be eligible to hold funds as a Principal Investigator at an institution eligible to receive tri-agency funding (i.e., as listed by [CIHR](#), [NSERC](#), [SSHRC](#)).
- Dedicate at least 40% of their academic position's professional activity to research, including the ability to publish results and supervise trainees.
- They must not hold funding from the tobacco industry.

Eligibility Criteria for the Proposed Project

- Proposed projects must be directly relevant to at least one of LHF's current focus areas: asthma, COPD, lung cancer, infectious respiratory disease prevention and health promotion, or youth nicotine smoking/vaping prevention, cessation, and/or effects on lung health.
- At the time of award acceptance, there must be no overlap between the proposed project and research already supported by other funding sources held by the applicant.

- Research must be conducted in Canada.
- The project must not hold funding from the tobacco industry.

Review Process and Criteria

1. Letter of Intent Screening: Letters of Intent will be assessed for alignment with the Hope Innovation Research Grant program. Only applicants whose Letters of Intent are aligned with the program will be invited to submit a full application.

2. Full Application Review: Each full application will be reviewed by two to three reviewers using the following weighted criteria:

- **Innovation** – 25%
- **Research impact** – 25%
- **Research approach, design, and methodology** – 25%
- **Applicant** – 15%
- **Research environment** – 10%

3. Panel Consensus Review: The top-ranking applications will be discussed by the full review panel, made up of all reviewers, to reach a consensus score based on the criteria above. Health equity considerations will be factored into the consensus score.

4. Final recommendation: Applications with the highest panel consensus scores will move forward to the LHF Research Advisory Committee. Final funding recommendations will consider alignment with LHF goals, knowledge mobilization, health equity, EDI, patient and donor perspectives, and budget rationale.

Application Instructions and Requirements

Application Process

- 1) **Step 1: Submit a Letter of Intent.** Applicants must submit a complete Letter of Intent through ProposalCentral by December 7, 2026, 11:59PM, EST.
- 2) **Step 2: LHF reviews for eligibility.** LHF will review Letters of Intent to confirm that the applicant and proposed project meet the eligibility criteria.
- 3) **Step 3: Select applicants are invited to apply.** Applicants whose Letters of Intent meet the eligibility criteria may be invited to submit a full application through ProposalCentral by April 19, 2027, 11:59PM EST.

Submission requirements: Only applicants who receive an invitation from LHF may submit a full application.

Important Note: Applicants must submit all required materials through ProposalCentral by the applicable deadline, including signatures and third-party documents such as letters of collaboration. Email, mail, and separately submitted documents will not be accepted. LHF may decline late, incomplete, or inconsistent applications without requesting missing information.

Eligible Expenses and Funding Conditions

Eligible Expenses

Grant funds may be used only for direct expenses that are necessary to complete the approved research project and included in the approved budget. Eligible expenses may include:

- Personnel directly involved in the project, including technicians, research assistants, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows, except for salary support for the grantee (see **Ineligible Expenses**).
- Materials, supplies, equipment, and animal costs required for the project.
- Project-related training costs.
- Travel required to carry out the project, where included in the approved budget.
- Publication costs, up to \$2,000, where included in the approved budget.

Ineligible Expenses

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Costs not directly tied to the approved research project.
- Institutional overhead or indirect research costs.
- Salary support for the grantee.
- Clinical care costs.
- Conference or meeting attendance, unless directly required to perform the funded research project and approved in the budget.
- Professional or scientific society membership fees.
- Journal subscriptions.

Budget Changes and Spending Limits

Investigators may manage spending within the approved budget. Prior written approval from LHF is required for any major budget change. Costs that exceed the approved grant amount or fall outside the grant term are the responsibility of the investigator.

Equipment and Transfers

Equipment purchased with grant funds remains with the institution where the grant is held and must prioritize the approved project or other LHF-approved uses. If the Principal Investigator moves institutions, any transfer of funds or equipment requires prior written approval from LHF; equipment transfers also require approval from the original institution.

Patent Rights and Inventions

LHF does not claim patent rights to inventions resulting from LHF-funded research. Grantees and their institutions are expected to seek appropriate patent protection for inventions or developments supported through the grant.

Unspent Funds, Extensions, and Incomplete Research

Any unspent balance at the end of the grant must be returned to LHF by the deadline in the funding agreement, unless LHF approves a written extension request. The institution must notify LHF promptly if the grantee is unable to carry out or complete the approved research.

Research Location

Grant funds may only support research conducted in Canada.

Personnel Costs

Personnel costs must follow CIHR and Tri-agency financial administration guidelines. Personnel may be supported only when their roles are directly tied to the approved project, justified in the budget, and paid according to institutional policies and pay scales. Individuals paid from the grant are not employees of LHF.

Reporting and Communications Requirements

Grant recipients must document the outcomes and impact of LHF-funded research and meet all reporting, acknowledgement, communications, and participation requirements outlined in the funding agreement.

Reports and meetings: Recipients must submit progress and final reports and meet with LHF according to the schedule set out in the funding agreement.

Acknowledgement of LHF support: Recipients must acknowledge LHF support in publications, posters, presentations, media coverage, and other project-related communications using wording provided by LHF.

Research outputs: Copies of abstracts, lay summaries, publications, and other outputs arising from the grant must be submitted to LHF according to the funding agreement.

LHF communications: LHF may use scientific abstracts, lay summaries, funded-project announcements, and related materials in print, digital, social media, newsletter, and online communications.

Fundraising and awareness activities: Recipients may be asked, by mutual agreement, to participate in activities that highlight the benefits of LHF research funding.

Indemnification

LHF, its directors, officers, employees, and volunteers are not responsible for claims or matters arising from employment or other activities related to the application or funded research.