

**Specialized Geriatric Services (SGS)
Grants for Quality Improvement**

**Request for Applications
2017 / 2018**

The Regional Geriatric Program – central has established a special grant to support innovative ideas for quality improvement within Specialized Geriatric Services (SGS). Frontline, clinical, professional, and administrative staff are invited to apply for up to \$10,000 in one time support funding for ideas that aim to improve quality of care or customer service within SGS.

Award per application: The award will not exceed \$10,000. Funding must be used by **April 30, 2018**.

Objective: To support ideas for improving quality of care or customer service within Specialized Geriatric Services.

Submission Criteria

To qualify for this grant, projects must meet the following criteria:

- Must be submitted by frontline, clinical, professional or administrative staff working in SGS.
- Applicants working in the catchment areas of LHINs 3, 4 or 6.
- Must be supported by the immediate leader.
- Must be supported by a geriatric specialist within the setting or a physician with Care of the Elderly certification or other specialized training in geriatrics.
- Must target frail seniors over 65-years of age.
- Must aim to improve quality of patient care or customer service (how we work together to deliver care). Funding can be used toward purchasing equipment or materials, support backfilling staff, or to support process improvement. Examples of possible innovations include:
 - Testing the implementation of a new assessment tool (feasibility, effectiveness, value to patient care).
 - Testing the use of new equipment, such as assistive devices for patients with disabilities, or use of computers to reduce social isolation in housebound seniors.
 - Implementation of a new communication, information sharing, tracking, or decision support tools.
 - Delivery of educational programs or provision of resources to support an existing gap in knowledge or care.
- Must be innovative or novel in that it does not duplicate existing products, services, or practices. However, modifying or applying an existing product, service, practice to a new situation could be considered a new innovation.
- Must not cost over \$10,000 to implement. In cases where it costs over \$10,000 to implement an idea, there must be an established funding source to cover costs exceeding \$10,000.
- Must include an evaluation process – a method of assessing whether stated objectives were achieved. A Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) quality improvement approach should be considered to guide the implementation of the innovation. This approach focuses on planning, implementation ('do'), evaluation ('study'), and making changes based on evaluation ('act'). As part of the

application process, you will need to specify what you intend to accomplish – that is, your specific goals for this project and how you will demonstrate whether you have achieved them. Goals should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely.

- Must have an REB approval, and a designated research account in order to receive funding.
- Must be completed by **April 30, 2018**.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Eligibility criteria
2. Relevance/significance of the proposed project to the objective:
 - Is this project in line with the objective of this grant opportunity?
 - Does the project address an important problem or critical barrier in SGS?
 - How well does the project plan represent a unique or innovative approach?
 - Does the project address the needs of the patients, families, or SGS staff?
3. Potential impact of the proposed project:
 - If the aims of the project are achieved, will these achievements result in quality improvements to care or customer service?
 - Does the proposed project suggest and explore creative and original concepts? (That is, this is project innovative in that it does not duplicate existing practices or products?)
4. Appropriateness and reasonableness of the project:
 - Are capabilities and resources adequate to implement this project?
 - Are the proposed methods/approaches optimal for achieving the objectives of the project?
 - Are the methods/ plan for implementation and evaluation reasonable?
 - Is the specified work plan practical and achievable for the proposed project?
 - Is the project budget reasonable?

Final Report

Successful applicants will be expected to provide a brief final report on their results.

Acknowledgements: Any communications, publications, or presentations related to the work conducted with the financial support of the Specialized Geriatrics Services Grants for Innovative Quality Improvement must acknowledge the Regional Geriatric Program central.

Application Process and Deadline:

Applicants must complete and submit the SGS Grants for Quality Improvement Application Form by **October 31st, 2017**. **ONLY THE CHOSEN AWARD APPLICANT WILL BE NOTIFIED.**

Applications not eligible for this funding should not be submitted; ineligible applications will be returned to the applicant and will not be reviewed.

Award Notification: **November 2017**

Completed application forms are to be emailed to: Kristy McKibbon at mckibbonkr@hhsc.ca
Confirmation of receipt of the application will be sent to all applicants.

Any inquiries regarding this RFA can be directed to: Kristy McKibbon

