



ELDERCARE
FOUNDATION

TIPS FOR YOUR ELDERCARE RESEARCH AWARD APPLICATION

Introduction

Eldercare Foundation of Vancouver Island believes that all seniors deserve the chance to age with dignity. We are a registered charity that raises funds to:

- Help seniors age in place,
- Enhance long-term care,
- Advance research and education aimed at improving the care available to seniors everywhere.

Through the generosity of donors, we are currently able to provide two research awards – the *Ruth A Gardner Research Award* and the *Funke-Furber Gerontological Research Award* – to support practice-oriented or clinically-oriented projects aimed at enhancing care for the elderly and those living with chronic illnesses.

The following tips are designed to assist you in creating your application such that the members of our Education and Research Awards Committee can understand:

- Why your proposed research project is important.
- What you are planning to do.
- How the award funds will be used to support the proposed project.
- Your ability to carry out the proposed research project (based primarily on your supervisor's letter of support).

General Approach

Your application will be reviewed by a diverse Committee of clinicians, funders, and researchers, so you should write for a broad audience.

- Do not presume that the reviewers will be familiar with your research area.
- Avoid jargon, define your terms, and avoid or minimize the use of abbreviations.
- Write for readability. Use short, concise sentences whenever possible. Have a well-defined structure with clear headings and sub-headings.
- Pay attention to formatting.
- Make it easy for reviewers to follow your arguments and ideas.

Introduction Section

- A good Introduction Section will lay the groundwork for your proposed project.
- You should explain what has been done on your topic to date, what you plan to do and why, and how your proposed project will benefit the target population.
- Be sure to include how your proposed project might inform practices that will improve quality of life for the target population.

Methodology Section

- Be as specific as possible about your participant sample.
- Include inclusion/exclusion criteria, if relevant, and explain why they are required.
- Include details regarding the participant characteristics you will collect data on (e.g., age, disease/medical condition, family configuration, etc.).
- If you are proposing a study that involves an intervention, describe the intervention in full, including how the intervention is expected to improve quality of life for the target population.
- If you are proposing a descriptive study, provide a detailed description of how observations will be undertaken, and how they will provide information regarding the target population's quality of life.
- Keep your proposed project realistic – over-reaching may result in less favourable reviews.
- Consider and describe issues that may impact your request for ethics approval.
- If you are collaborating with other individuals or organizations, explain how each collaborator will contribute to the project.

Peer Review

- Ask someone who is not familiar with your research to review your proposed project. Use their feedback to identify and remedy any areas that are unclear or difficult to follow.

Budget

- Ensure that your budget is consistent with your proposed project and knowledge dissemination plan. For example, if you are planning to present at a conference, make sure you include funds to attend it, or an explanation as to why such funding is not required.

- If you have funding from another source, clearly indicate what activities your current funding covers and how the funding from an Eldercare award would be used.
- Include any in-kind support you may receive – for example, from a collaborating organization.
- An applicant stipend is allowed; however, it should not be more than 50% of your budget.

Supervisor's Letter of Support

- Your supervisor's letter of support is an important component of your application.
- It should address how your proposed project fits with other research being conducted by their lab.
- If your proposed study is part of a larger research project being conducted by your supervisor, your supervisor should describe how your study will contribute to the larger project.
- If your proposed project is an independent study, your supervisor should describe how your academic background supports the methods and/or field of study.
- Your supervisor should also comment on how your knowledge, experience and skill sets will enable you to conduct the study in a timely and effective manner and how conducting the proposed project will contribute to your academic and/or professional growth.

Final Check

- Review your full application to ensure that all requested documents and sections have been included.

Good luck!

