



MAURIL BÉLANGER MEMORIAL YOUTH ADDICTIONS RESEARCH GRANT

A United Way Ottawa / project step initiative

March 2018



PROGRAM STATEMENT

BACKGROUND

Project step is an award-winning community response addressing the need for a drug and substance abuse initiative to help youth (grades seven to twelve) in the Ottawa region. Project step began in 2007 because many youth in need of substance abuse treatment had nowhere to go. They were often forced to leave their communities, incur costs, and did not have access to full follow-up support. Youth struggling with addiction are at high risk for dropping out of school.

The impact of addiction on the well-being and future of our youth is significant, and in many cases things can quickly spiral into much larger issues, such as troubled relationships, criminality, mental health conditions, unemployment, and an increased risk of homelessness.

Project step is an important part of ensuring more youth can achieve the healthy and balanced life all young people deserve.

P.C. Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Vanier Mauril Bélanger was a longstanding champion for project step. During his involvement with the initiative, the Honourable Mauril Bélanger advocated at various levels of government for the need for supports for youth dealing with addictions. In memory of the Honourable Mauril Bélanger who passed away in 2016, United Way Ottawa has established the **Mauril Bélanger Memorial Youth Addictions Research Grant**.

PURPOSE OF GRANT

This grant aims to identify talented researchers conducting thesis or dissertation research related to youth addictions. The research must be Ottawa focused (e.g. take place in or be focused on subjects of Ottawa). Although research may include participants beyond high school age, the research is meant to inform the body of research around school-aged youth. Letters of Interest (LOI) should be submitted by the interested graduate student or principal researcher (i.e. academic supervisor) to secure funding for one or more graduate students or post-doctoral fellows. Research may focus on any one or multiple of **project step's four substance abuse pillars: support, treatment, education and prevention**.

Particular areas of interest of project step related to youth in Ottawa include:

- Concurrent disorders and/or concurrent addictions
- Non-medical use of prescription opioids and/or use of illicit opioids
- The impacts of cannabis legalization on youth
- Prevention and/or education at the middle school level
- Youth attending Non-mainstream schools



Definitions:

Concurrent Disorders: substance use **problems** and mental health disorders that occur at the same time. Depression and alcohol dependence is one example of a **concurrent disorder**. (CAMH definition).

Youth: Project step defines youth as those in grades seven through twelve.

Youth attending Non-mainstream schools: Youth in alternative school settings (e.g. homeless youth, pregnant youth).

Non-medical use of prescription opioids: use of opioids without a doctor's prescription or without a doctor telling you to take them.

KEY INFORMATION

Funding

United Way Ottawa through project step is inviting researchers to submit a LOI as the first stage of this process. Successful applicants will then be invited to submit a full proposal that will be evaluated through the Mitacs Accelerate program to leverage available funding (<https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/accelerate>).

United Way Ottawa, a backbone support organization of project step, has \$15,000 of confirmed funding with a potential additional match of \$15,000 through the Mitacs Accelerate program. Each internship is worth \$15,000. \$10,000 is allocated to the student and \$5000 for research project costs incurred by the principal researcher. Up to two grants may be allocated through this request for LOIs. Grant funds may be allocated entirely in 2018-19, or split between 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years. One student may receive up to two grant allocations. United Way Ottawa and project step will make allocation decisions depending on the LOIs received. Mitacs and United Way will then evaluate the full research proposals.

Eligible expenses include direct research costs and student payroll. Indirect costs and overhead as well as capital expenses are not eligible.

Timing

Ideally grants will begin during the 2018-2019 academic year or the following or summer or fall semester.



Applications must be received by **October 5, 2018**. Awardees will be notified to prepare their full proposal by December 2018. Any changes to this call or timing will be posted on the United Way website. <https://www.unitedwayottawa.ca/agencies/call-for-proposals/>

Ethics & Clearance

Should this LOI be selected to develop a full proposal, ethics applications and Police Vulnerable Sector Check (if applicable) must be submitted by the time the proposal is complete.

All researchers proposing to collect data involving children and youth must have a Police Vulnerable Sector Check completed. Please note that this can take 8 weeks or more. Researchers must carry this approval on their person, while in a school.

Aside from the researcher's institutional required ethics clearance, please note that research in schools must have approval by the relevant school board(s). Please note that boards may not meet during the summer.

DELIVERABLES

This grant requires that the student(s) collaborate with United Way Ottawa or another eligible project step partner organization on the research project. It is expected that the student will spend 50% of the internship with the university and 50% with the partner organization. Examples could include participation in committee meetings, meetings/interviews with project step partners etc...

- A final research report must be provided to United Way Ottawa.
- Student will be asked to present to key stakeholders as identified by United Way Ottawa and project step

Note: Researchers may publish in peer reviewed journals and present at conferences. Any publications must be peer reviewed and openly accessible to community agencies. Funding provided by United Way via project step and name of grant, along with any additional funding received through Mitacs, must be acknowledged.

Researcher must obtain permission to release names of participating organizations.

ELIGIBILITY AND PROCESS

ELIGIBILITY



LOIs may be made by the interested graduate student or principal researcher with the express purpose of allocating the funds to one or more graduate students under their supervision. Students need not be citizens of Canada; however, they must be candidates for a graduate degree at a graduate school within Canada. The principal researcher need not be a citizen of Canada but must be employed as a professional researcher or professor at a graduate school within Canada. The principal researcher must be eligible to supervise graduate students and to hold Tri-Council funding at the University.

Recipients may not accept employment other than as described in the application, nor may they accept other awards that would provide duplicate benefits, without prior approval.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Basic selection criteria are as follows:

- Proposed project must be a youth (grade seven through twelve) addictions research project focused on one or more of the project step pillars. Research may include participants beyond high school age, but the research is meant to inform the body of research around school-aged youth.
- Importance of the research question and results to youth addictions policy, practices and or services in Ottawa
- Quality of the research approach and feasibility of the methodology
- Alignment with one or more cited areas of interest
- Opportunities for Knowledge Transfer

Review of the full proposals will follow the Mitacs Accelerate review criteria (<https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/eligible-research>)

REVIEW PROCESS

Selection will be made by a committee of project step research, evaluation and learning committee members. The selected principal applicant will then develop a full proposal in consultation with grant funders (Mitacs and United Way through project step), for submission to the Accelerate program.



LOI FORMAT

The Letter of inquiry should be no more than three pages single spaced of 11-12 point font with 1 inch margins. It should include the following sections with the following six headers:

I. Introduction

- a. Literature review (and/or theoretical framework)
- b. Research question/gap
- c. Contribution to knowledge and/or stated need
- d. Describe how this project aligns with or extends your current research goals

II. Statement of Need

- a. Several concrete examples illustrating the need in relation to one or more pillars of project step
- b. Your desired objectives and specific outcomes

III. Methodology - should be appropriate to your statement of need and present a clear and logical, and achievable solution to your stated need including:

- a. Target population within Ottawa
- b. Proposed sampling methods (size and recruitment)
- c. Data type and collection tools
- d. Proposed procedures and methodology

IV. Timetable – should illustrate the timeline of project taking into account the start time of the grant, full proposal, ethics and approvals considerations

V. Conclusion - restates the intent of the project and adds any final considerations

Attachments: Signature page (see page 6), CV of principal researcher (5 pages max)

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Email your LOI to cfp_questions@unitedwayottawa.ca as one PDF document including in the following order 1) signature page 2) letter of intent 3) CV. Subject line of your email should read 'Mauril Bélanger grant'. When your email is received at cfp_questions@unitedwayottawa.ca, you will receive an email reply within 24 hours acknowledging receipt. If you do not receive this acknowledgment, please call Erin Kiley at 613-683-3782.



**United Way
Centraide
Ottawa**

SIGNATURE PAGE: MAURIL BÉLANGER MEMORIAL YOUTH ADDICTIONS RESEARCH GRANT

Title of proposed research project: Click here to enter text.

Request Amount: Choose an item.
text.

Total project budget: Click here to enter text.

Other Funding Sources being approached to support this project:

Click here to enter text.

Ethics Approval Obtained? Click here to enter text.
text.

If no, explain: Click here to enter text.

Specify which institutions have provided ethical clearance: Click here to enter text.

Focus:

Step Pillars Addressed (may select multiple):

Choose an item. Choose an item. Choose an item. Choose an item.

Student and Principal Researcher Details

- 1. Student Name:** Click here to enter text. **Degree level:** Choose an item.
- 2. Student Name:** Click here to enter text. **Degree level:** Choose an item.

Principal Researcher Details

Name: Click here to enter text.

Title: Click here to enter text.

Email: Click here to enter text.

Phone: Click here to enter text.

Institution Name: Click here to enter text.

Department: Click here to enter text.

Institution Address: Click here to enter text.

Date: Click here to enter a date.

Signature of Principal Researcher:

By signing this LOI and submitting to United Way Ottawa you are certifying that all of the statements contained in it and all its attachments are accurate to the best of your knowledge. Information in this LOI may be shared with Mitacs.