

MOVEMBER PROSTATE CANCER HEALTH EQUITY INITIATIVE CANADA Request for Proposals

Request for Proposal Released

September 21, 2023, EDT

Expression of Interest (EOI) Deadline

November 16, 2023, 5:00 pm EST

Notification of Outcome of EOI Assessment

Week Commencing December 18, 2023

Full Proposal (FP) Deadline

February 23, 2024, 5:00 pm EST

Notification of Outcome of FP Assessment

End April, 2024

Earliest Project Start Date

June 1, 2024

Funding Availability

\$2,100,000 CAD (funding range \$100k - \$500k per grant)

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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT MOVEMBER

Movember is the leading charity changing the face of men's health on a global scale. Since 2003, the men's health movement has funded vital men's health projects, challenged the *status quo*, shaken up men's health research and transformed the way health services reach and support men. Taking on prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health, and suicide prevention with unwavering determination. Supporting men to live healthier, longer lives. Movember is working with community and expert partners year-round to improve the health of men and boys, their families, friends, and communities. The charity's vision is to have an everlasting impact on the face of men's health. Leading the charge in encouraging men to adopt healthy behaviours, challenging health systems and confronting gender norms to reduce health inequities and save more lives.

BACKGROUND

Men diagnosed and living with prostate cancer experience physical, mental health and psychosocial side-effects. Even prior to diagnosis, lack of health literacy and engagement in health seeking behaviour can lead to late presentation and poorer health outcomes related to survival and quality of life. All treatments for prostate cancer have side-effects, and with variation in treatment and care practices, there are also significant variations in patient outcomes.

As defined by the World Health Organization, equity is the absence of unfair, avoidable, or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, geographically or by other dimensions of inequality (*e.g.*, sex, gender, ethnicity, disability, or sexual orientation). Differences and disparities in prostate cancer incidence, mortality, and quality of life outcomes have been recognized across men of varied race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and place of birth or residence. While some factors for these inequities are known and understood, there are many yet to be identified, including the local factors that contribute to the variation of outcomes for those with prostate cancer.

Marginalised and traditionally underrepresented communities experience unacceptable disparities in health outcomes related to prostate cancer diagnosis, treatment, and care. The Movember Prostate Cancer Health Equity Initiative thus aims to support research, both new ideas and evidence strengthening, toward improved health outcomes by promoting health equity for these communities.

Funding will be provided through a two-step process, commencing with a brief Expression of Interest application. Following review, short listed applicants will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.

Additional details including Goals, Priority Populations and Priority Initiatives are detailed below.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Movember is seeking Respondents to submit a Proposal to its Prostate Cancer Health Equity Initiative.

OVERARCHING GOALS OF INITIATIVE

The Movember Prostate Cancer Health Equity Initiative aims to fund projects that *build* or *strengthen* the evidence base of promising approaches that contribute to health equity, promoting the inclusion and improved outcomes of marginalised and traditionally underrepresented populations of men at risk of or diagnosed and living with prostate cancer.

The purpose of this Initiative is to reduce disparities in prostate cancer outcomes through:

- Generating new knowledge, or
- Strengthening evidence by accelerating adoption and implementation of that knowledge into practice.

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

This Initiative seeks engagement with marginalised and traditionally underrepresented communities. We recognise that the scale, scope, and evidence base of these disparities varies across these populations. The initial Priority Populations include:

- Indigenous Men
- Black Men/Men of African and Caribbean descent
- Men living in rural or remote areas
- Minority populations based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity

INITIATIVE PRIORITIES

Areas of focus prioritised in this Initiative are those that:

1. Strengthen health literacy and help seeking behaviour of Priority Populations through culturally appropriate mechanisms and practices.
2. Improve the understanding of lived experiences of Priority Populations to inform and enable more culturally appropriate treatment or care.
3. Provide an improved understanding and application of the systems and models of care supporting and enabling equitable health outcomes of Priority Populations.
4. Identify critical gaps in existing population level data for Priority Populations and develop approaches to close these gaps.
5. Utilize and improve artificial intelligence or machine learning models to optimise treatment or care for Priority Populations.
6. Increase advocacy capacity and capability within communities to drive system level change in health outcomes for Priority Populations.

Applicants will need to identify whether they are applying for either the new knowledge generation or strengthening promising evidence streams.

GRANT FUNDING BREAKDOWN

National grants being made available to support this Initiative over the next 24-36 months range between \$100k-500k per grant.

The total number of grants supported under this Initiative over 3 years will be dependent on the individual amounts requested by project teams.

Additionally, seed funding up to \$10,000 CAD may be available to projects that have been invited to submit full proposals and who may need assistance with resource capacity to complete a full application.

FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

Movember is committed to capacity building and strengthening Priority Populations through this Initiative. It is strongly encouraged that the lead applicant be part of the Prioritised Population represented in the Application or have a strong track record in serving, representing, and collaborating with the community.

It is expected that this Initiative will appeal to collaborative groups and teams:

- Health care institutions, organisations or departments providing prostate cancer care delivery and/or research.
- Public Health or community health agencies and/or organisations supporting prostate cancer services and improving equity of health outcomes.
- Community or patient centred organisations.
- Prostate cancer outcomes networks, registries, or organisations.
- Transdisciplinary early career investigators from Universities/Research Institutes that have experience in partnering with Priority Populations.
- Public/private sector organizations engaged in advocacy work focused on addressing the social determinants of health, social justice, and health equity to decrease health disparities.

To be eligible for this funding opportunity, applicants must:

1. Be based in Canada. The lead applicant would ideally be part of or represent and serve the Prioritised Population.
2. Be legally able to accept grant funds within Canada.
3. Participate in the program evaluation and agree to ensure roll-out/delivery of controlled evaluation with Movember's evaluation partner.
4. Be implementing an existing program with an underlying evidence base OR proposing a new area of research that is aligned with the funding goals.
5. Be willing to report back on findings and be willing to share results with the Movember community and stakeholders, and to participate in a Knowledge Community (described below).
6. Provide annual updates on deliverables, project progress and grant fund expenditures.

What will not be funded:

1. Programs that are not aligned with the intent of this call and the goals of the Request for Proposal listed above.
2. Research positions/scholarships for Universities or Research Institutes.

3. Awareness and education activities that do not specify and provide a clear and measurable link to improved health outcomes for the Priority Populations.
4. Sole requests for infrastructure support.
5. Institutional overhead per Movember’s common funding practices (see Guidance on Submissions below).

APPLICATION PROCESS

PROPOSED TIMELINE

The following table provides indicative dates in relation to this RFP process (which, may be amended by Movember in writing at any time in its sole discretion).

Request for Proposal Released	September 21, 2023 (EDT)
Phase 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI)	
Expression of Interest (EOI) Deadline	November 16, 2023, 5:00 pm EST
Assessment and shortlisting of Proposals	November 17 – December 15, 2023
Notification of EOI outcome	Week Commencing December 18, 2023
Phase 2 – Full Proposals	
Full Proposal Development Period	December 2023 – February 2024
Full Proposal Deadline	February 23, 2024, 5:00 pm EST
Assessment of Proposals	February - April 2024
Notification of Outcome of Assessment	End April, 2024
Earliest Project Start Date	June 1, 2024

Applications will follow a phased submission process utilizing an online grants management system.

Phase 1: Online submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI)

Phase 2: Online submission of Full Proposal (by invitation only)

Applicants are asked to register their interest through the creation of a profile within the grants management system. All applications must be submitted online by the submission deadline at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=movember>. Late submissions or applications submitted through any other means will not be accepted.

PHASE 1 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Phase 1 will consist of a brief Expression of Interest (EOI) following the outline provided below. Following registration and profile set up, applicants will be asked to:

- 1) Complete an online application form within the grants management system responding to the following:
 - Organisation Name
 - Key Contact or Project Lead Details
 - Project Title
 - Primary Target audience(s)
 - Identify the stream to which you are submitting your application.
 - Identify the area(s) of focus of your research project.
 - Would you require consideration of additional funding to aid with organisational capacity to develop a full proposal if successful in EOI Phase?
- 2) Confirm that you have read and understood the application guidelines and that your organisation and initiative meet the eligibility criteria.
- 3) Upload the EOI and attach to your application. Note: EOI's should be no more than **2 pages** (single spaced, 12 pt font with 1-inch margins in Microsoft Word or PDF format) and include a header with Organisation Name and Project Title.

Expression of Interest Outline

- a. **Organisation/Project Lead:** Provide a brief description of the applicant organisation and project lead, including organisation size (# of employees) and relationship to the community represented in the application. If applicable, briefly describe other partners that would be part of the Project.
- b. **Target Audience:** Identify the primary audience for this project and provide a description of how the project directly benefits your target population. If possible, describe the overall population size as well as the size of your sample population.
- c. **Assessment of Need:** Provide a brief description of the primary purpose of the project and the need or gap you are seeking to address. If available, include baseline data with initial metrics, or a project starting point that includes a gap analysis or relevant patient-level data that informs the stated objectives.
- d. **Goals & Objectives:**
 - Briefly state the overall goal of the project, including a description of how the goal aligns with the focus of this RFP.
 - List the overall objective(s) you plan to meet with your research project. Describe the outcomes that you expect to achieve by carrying out the project.

- e. **Funding Amount:** Provide the total funding requested. A Full Budget is not required for the EOI. Note that the final amount requested can be adjusted in a full proposal submission. Please refer to eligible and ineligible costs when building a project budget.

- f. **Additional Information:** If relevant, please provide any additional information regarding the importance of the project that the assessment panel should consider.

PHASE 2 - FULL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Following the review of the EOI, short-listed applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal and budget to cover the grant period. The invitation to progress to Phase 2 will be determined by the strength of submissions received.

If you are selected to progress to Full Proposal Phase, the following are examples of the types of questions that would need to be addressed in the Full Proposal (a template will be provided):

Full Proposal outline

1. *Project Description* - What is being proposed? Include a description of the population and how the program is addressing the identified need or problem.
2. *Project Goals and Impact* - What would your specific learning and performance goals and desired outcomes be for the program over the term of the grant?
3. *Implementation Plan* - Dependent on chosen stream, include proposed steps to develop and test the project OR to research and implement the program.
4. *Timelines* - Include activities, milestones, and deliverables.
5. *Engagement and Recruitment* - How will you reach and engage with the men in the target population?
6. *Team Description* - Outline who will be involved in the project. Include a description of the project lead and team members' expertise, roles, and responsibilities.
7. *Partners* - How will team members, including any partners, work together during the project? Include a plan for conflict resolution.
8. *Relationships* - Where applicable, describe the relationship with proposed partners. Include signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) to demonstrate the relationship described above.

Full Proposal Budget

A budget including itemised justifications to deliver the project should be provided. Funding within the provided range per project is available.

SELECTION PROCESS

PHASE 1 - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST.

EOI's will be shortlisted through a process carried out by a panel convened specifically to assess submissions. The assessment will be based on the following criteria:

1. Alignment to the stated goals of the funding opportunity;
2. How well the Applicant and team represent the Priority Population;
3. How well the project/idea is described;
4. The supporting evidence/theory for the program;
5. The likelihood that outcomes will contribute to new knowledge, or promising evidence that accelerates adoption into practice, will be strengthened;
6. The extent to which the outcomes of the proposed project can be evaluated.

PHASE 2 - FULL PROPOSALS

A selection panel comprised of subject matter experts (SME's), who do not have any conflict of interests with the applicants, will be engaged to assess full proposals.

Full proposals will be reviewed by the selection panel to determine which programs should be recommended to the Movember Board for funding. Proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. Alignment with the intent of the Initiative;
2. How well the project contributes to health equity, promotes the inclusion and improved outcomes of marginalised and traditionally underrepresented populations of men at risk of or diagnosed and living with prostate cancer;
3. Probability of success for widespread adoption of the results;
4. The quality and strength of a submission relative to other proposals;
5. The extent to which the proposed project can be evaluated;
6. The likelihood that outcomes will contribute to new knowledge or adopted into practice;
7. The technical components of the application including:
 - o Clarity of the proposal.
 - o Description of the proposed project.
 - o Robustness of the plan - how well the problem is explained.
 - o Suitability of the proposed initiative.
 - o The quality and availability of the data to be used for evaluation.

FINALISATION OF DOCUMENTATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND AWARDING

DEVELOPMENT PERIOD & EVALUATION

Evaluation is a key component of all Movember funded initiatives. At the outset, a submission would need to make a serious commitment to robust evaluation. A third-party evaluation partner will be contracted separately by Movember to work directly with grant recipients and those selected to receive funding should be ready to refine their proposed initiative via development of a detailed implementation plan that will incorporate appropriate project level evaluation, which also contributes to the evaluation goals of the overarching program. Movember will provide guidance on content required, including further information about the overall Program evaluation.

KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Successful teams will be required to participate in a Knowledge Community, to promote knowledge exchange, share best practices and learnings, and build capacity.

The Knowledge Community will include both online and in person elements through learning forums and annual global convenings. The initial global convening would be held within one of the participating countries within 1 month of project start dates. Movember would cover travel costs for one designated team member to participate; however, teams are welcome to send an additional representative(s) at their own cost.

CONTACT & QUESTIONS:

Questions regarding this RFP should be directed to pcahealthequitygrants@movember.com. Turnaround time for responses will be within 2 business days of receiving an inquiry about the initiative.

GUIDANCE ON SUBMISSIONS

1. COSTS

(a) **Eligible Costs:** The following expenditures will be considered eligible for funding received through this opportunity:

- i. Direct program related costs including supplies, expenses, travel, and equipment related to the proposed program.
- ii. Relevant proportion of salaries of project or program managers, coordinators, technicians, administrative staff, and other personnel.
- iii. Indirect costs up to 10% of the total budget (allowable for small Community Organisations only).

(b) **Ineligible Costs:** The following expenditures are not eligible expenses through this opportunity:

- i. Overhead costs, including accounting fees, insurance, interest, legal fees, taxes, utilities, and costs associated with construction, renovation or rental of offices, laboratories, or other supporting facilities.
- ii. Tuition and professional membership dues.
- iii. Secondary grants and awards issued by the award recipient.

2. COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

Funding recipients will be required to ensure appropriate acknowledgement of Movember and partner organisations in all communication or publication related to this funding opportunity. In addition, recipients of project funding are also required to adhere to Movember branding requirements as a condition of the program funding. This includes agreeing to the sharing of program evaluation findings produced as part of this fund and a willingness to participate in knowledge translation activities.

3. TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 1) Movember does not make any representation that it will, and disclaims any obligation to, proceed with or to commit to any particular future actions in relation to the subject matter of program call, including without limitation: a) accepting any application or shortlisting any applicant; and b) considering, not considering, accepting or rejecting any application.
- 2) Movember reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to initiate another selection process, enter into negotiations with a person or persons who have not been invited to respond to this Request for Proposals or to cancel the Request for Proposals.
- 3) Applicants must pay their own costs and expenses incurred in preparing and submitting an application.

- 4) To the extent permitted by law, Movember excludes all liability for any loss, costs (including legal expenses) or damages, suffered or incurred by an applicant or any person, arising out of the applicant's participation in the application process.
- 5) The Applicant warrants that it has no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to its participation in the application process or its delivery of the Project other than that which is disclosed in the application.
- 6) No legal or other obligation arises between an Applicant and Movember in relation to the outcome of the application process, unless and until Movember executes a contract with the applicants.
- 7) Movember is not obliged to a) accept any application or b) enter into any contract with any applicant or c) give reasons for not considering or accepting or rejecting all or any part of any application, or for cancelling the application process. Movember may, at its sole discretion, consider for acceptance a response that does not comply with the requirements of this request for applications.
- 8) The Applicant grants Movember, a non-exclusive license to use for the purpose of this application process, any information, processes, sketches, calculations, drawings, or other data or information submitted with or included in, the response submitted by the Applicant.
- 9) Each Applicant agrees to indemnify Movember against third party claims arising out of any use of any proprietary information submitted with or included in, the full application.
- 10) The Applicant and team members of the program acknowledge that their details, including any personal details may be disclosed to third parties including peer reviewers, for the purposes of this application process and any related purposes.
- 11) Movember reserves the right to fund lower rated projects based on specific areas of interest in the requested themes.

4. VARIATIONS

Movember may vary the requirements set out in this call and seek further information from the Applicants. Applicants shall supply this information on reasonable request.

5. MOVEMBER'S RIGHTS

Movember reserves the right to subject the Applicant to a "due diligence" enquiry, which may comprise of:

- a. Verifying whether the represented resources and skills are actually available; and
- b. Assessing experience and integrity.

Movember, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to depart from any method of assessment set out in this Request for Proposals.

6. RELIANCE ON INFORMATION

Movember will rely on information provided by, or on behalf of the Applicants at all stages of the application process. In providing information, Applicants represent to Movember that the information is complete and accurate in all material respects, that it is not misleading and that in preparing the information, reasonable skill and care has been exercised by the Applicant and its personnel and acknowledges that Movember may rely on that information.

7. PUBLICITY

Applicants are not to make any public statement in relation to the application process, their response, or their participation in the application process, or contract negotiation process without Movember's prior written consent.