



## RESEARCH FOR WELLNESS FUND FOR INTERVENTION 2020 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### Background and Purpose

The Ministry of Health and Wellness *Research for Wellness Fund* was announced by the Hon. Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton, during his Sectoral presentation on May 7, 2019<sup>1</sup>. An annual Fund of J\$50 Million will be financed by the National Health Fund (NHF), which will cover applied research based on competitive proposals, in line with identified challenges to be addressed.

Wellness is considered “the dynamic process by which persons become aware of, and make choices toward a successful existence”<sup>2</sup>. Definitions of wellness include dimensions, such as: emotional, environmental, financial, intellectual, occupational, physical, social and spiritual<sup>2,3</sup>, nutritional and dental wellness<sup>4</sup>. Although wellness for the most part is subjective, the WHO linked this concept to the phenomenon of health, which is objectively measured.....thus objective measures of health and wellness would prove very beneficial in terms of wellness promotion and tailored interventions<sup>5</sup>.

In advancing the Wellness Agenda, the Ministry of Health and Wellness recognizes the importance of working in key settings which: (1) are likely to touch the majority of the population and (2) involve important stakeholders within the community. This is referred to as a settings based approach to health promotion. This “...means addressing the contexts within which people live, work and play; and making these the object of inquiry and observation as well as the needs and capacities of different people to be found in different settings.”<sup>6</sup> The areas of focus for the Ministry are:

1. Wellness in the workplace
2. Wellness in schools
3. Wellness in homes
4. Wellness in communities
5. Wellness among persons with Non-Communicable Diseases and risk factors (tobacco use, physical inactivity, the harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets, and air pollution)

The Ministry of Health and Wellness is committed to using research evidence, to guide its policies in improving the wellness of persons within society. Strategic Outcome 2.3 of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (extracted from the 10 year Strategic Plan 2019- 2030), speaks

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Health and Wellness. (2019) *The Intervention. Sectoral Presentation. Dr. Christopher Tufton, MP.* Kingston, Jamaica: Ministry of Health and Wellness

<sup>2</sup>National Wellness Institute. (2018). *About Wellness*. Accessed November 29, 2019. <https://www.nationalwellness.org/page/AboutWellness>

<sup>3</sup>Boston University. *Eight Dimensions of Wellness*. Retrieved from:<https://cpr.bu.edu/living-well/eight-dimensions-of-wellness/>

<sup>4</sup> The Ohio State University - Student Wellness Center. (2019). *Nine Dimensions of Wellness*. Retrieved from: <https://swc.osu.edu/about-us/nine-dimensions-of-wellness/>

<sup>5</sup>Oliver, M. (2018). *Health to Wellness: A Review of Models and Transitioning Back to Health* Retrieved from: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329258077\\_Health\\_to\\_Wellness\\_A\\_Review\\_of\\_Wellness\\_Models\\_andTransitioning\\_Back\\_to\\_Health/ink/5d1368ee299bf1547c8026bc/download](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329258077_Health_to_Wellness_A_Review_of_Wellness_Models_andTransitioning_Back_to_Health/ink/5d1368ee299bf1547c8026bc/download)

<sup>6</sup>Poland, B., Krupa, G., & McCall D. (2009). Settings for Health Promotion: An Analytic Framework to Guide Intervention Design and Implementation. *Health Promotion Practice*, 505. doi:10.1177/1524839909341025

to “evidence-based policy, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The same source lists one of the strategic actions for this outcome as “develop and implement a funded Health Research Agenda to generate evidence to guide policy-making and monitoring and evaluation”<sup>7</sup>.

Research to be funded should take into consideration provisions of evidence, ranging from efficacy to effectiveness; with due consideration made to the contextual variation across communities. The above five settings will thus be used as the basis for which funding is provided, based on research conducted

## **Eligibility for Consideration**

The Research:

- is open to research teams conducting research in Jamaica
- must be led by a Principal Investigator, who is resident in Jamaica
- must in the short-term, inform policy and practice for health and wellness, covering the following five (5) priority areas:
  - (i) wellness in the workplace
  - (ii) wellness in schools
  - (iii) wellness in homes
  - (iv) wellness in communities
  - (v) wellness among persons with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and the associated risk factors (tobacco use, physical inactivity, the harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets, and air pollution)

## **Scored Review Criteria**

The following will be the review criteria. An application does not need to be strong in all categories for the award to be granted.

### *Significance*<sup>8</sup>

The project should:

- Deal with a significant challenge or impediment to the attainment of health and wellness
- Specify how the planned research will promote scientific knowledge, policies and programmes, and/or practice

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<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Health and Wellness. Vision for Health 2030 – Ten Year Strategic Plan 2019-2030. pp. 21 Retrieved from:

<https://www.moh.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/MOHV-Vision-for-Health-2030-Final.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Adapted from PAR-17-470 Clinical and Epidemiological Research on Chronic Disease in the Caribbean (R01). Retrieved from:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/par-17-470.html>

- Specify how the successful achievement of the aims will alter the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that foster health and wellness
- Specify whether a basis for ongoing and/or upcoming population health and comparative research will be provided

#### *Investigator(s)*

- All Programme Directors/Principal Investigators (PDs/PIs), collaborators, and other researchers should be well suited to the project
- If established, Investigators should clearly demonstrate evidence of accomplishments that have advanced their respective fields.
- If the project has several investigators, it should have complementary and integrated expertise; and their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure should be suitable for the project
- There should be suitable plans to ensure equitable partnership and shared decision-making across collaborators
- There should be a detailed and satisfactory communication plan to ensure effective coordination among multiple investigators or collaborators
- If the project is conducted in collaboration with researchers from another institution, a Letter of Support should be submitted

#### *Innovation*

- The concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions should be synonymous with wellness
- The fine-tuning, enhancement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions should be proposed

#### *Approach*

- The general approach, methodology, and analyses should be well-reasoned and suitable to achieve the definite aims of the project
- Investigators must present strategies to ensure a robust and impartial approach, as suitable for the work proposed
- Possible problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success should be presented
- If the project is in the initial phase of development, the approach should establish feasibility and manage particularly risky aspects
- Should the project involve human subjects, plans made should address 1) the protection of these human subjects from research risks, and the 2) inclusion (or exclusion) of individuals on the basis of sex/gender, age, race, and ethnicity, in addition to the inclusion or exclusion of children, justified in terms of the intervention proposed
- The data analysis plan should be sufficiently described and appropriate

## *Environment*

- The scientific environment in which the work will be done, should contribute to the probability of success
- Where institutional support and physical resources are made available to the investigators, these should be suitable for the project proposed
- The project should benefit from distinctive features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements
- Appropriate technical assistance should be available from collaborators, for investigators from non-research intensive institutions in the Caribbean
- There should be sufficient capabilities for sharing information and methods for transferring information and data
- The financial management system should contribute to the probability of success

## **Ethics Review**

All research involving human subjects or those which raise ethical issues (such as animal research) will require ethics review. The disbursement of funds will be contingent on written documentation of ethical approval from the university's ethical review board. Additional approval from the Ministry of Health and Wellness Advisory Panel on Ethics and Medico-legal Affairs should be provided, where necessary. Applicants do not require ethical approval upon submission of proposals, however, they are urged to seek ethical approval while their applications are being considered in order to facilitate efficient disbursement.

## **Applications**

The application comprises **four** parts and **all** should be downloaded from and submitted via the Ministry of Health and Wellness Website at <https://www.moh.gov.jm/research-for-wellness-fund-application-forms/> to be considered a complete application.

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|---------------|---|
| <b>Part 1</b> | The Research for Wellness Fund Application Form in fillable pdf format  |
| <b>Part 2</b> | The Workplan, Budget and Budget Justification (word document)   |
| <b>Part 3</b> | Declarations to be signed by the Principal Investigator and Business Official. This should be scanned and uploaded in pdf format. |
| <b>Part 4</b> | Qualifications and Experience (Biographical Sketch template provided in word format)  |

Applications will be acknowledged upon receipt.

**The deadline for submission of proposals is Thursday March 5, 2020 at 5:00 pm.**

For queries regarding the application process, please contact 876-633-8157 or email [NHRFund@moh.gov.jm](mailto:NHRFund@moh.gov.jm). A decision regarding the grant award will be made in April 2020. Funds are likely to be disbursed in September 2020.

## **Use of Funds**

The proposal must represent a defined piece of research with complete deliverables; and it may form part of a larger project.

The grant will NOT provide:

- the cost of unspecified research
- standard laboratory apparatus
- long-term technical support or training

## **Equipment**

Any single item of equipment valued in excess of 500,000 JMD will remain the property of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW). The MOHW at the termination of a project, may request that such equipment be returned for use by other researchers. However, if grantees wish to use the equipment for other studies, they may apply to MOHW for permission to do so.

## **Reports Grant**

Awardees are required to submit progress reports biannually, with the final report consisting of the following:

- Abstract (1 page)
- Executive Summary (3 pages)
- Full Research Report (no more than 25 pages)
  - Acknowledgments
  - Introduction
  - Methods
  - Results
  - Tables/Figures
  - Discussion
  - Implications for Practice (specify target audience)
  - Implications for Policy (specify target audience)
  - Directions for future Research
  - References
  - Appendices (including Financial Report)

The Executive Summary/Abstract of research studies funded by the Ministry of Health and Wellness will be posted on its website.

## **Publications and Acknowledgement**

All publications (journal articles, conferences, meetings, seminar materials, etc.) arising from research conducted using funds from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, must bear an acknowledgment and disclaimer as appropriate. For example:

This publication was supported by a Research Grant Award, funded by the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

## **Dissemination**

Awardees are encouraged to present their findings at the National Health Research Conference; and will also be expected to develop said findings into full manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals. They may also be asked to participate in other health discussion panels.

## **Value of Awards**

Awards will be granted for Tier 1 and Tier 2 studies. Tier 1 studies are those led by experienced/seasoned investigators with research budget up to a maximum value of JA \$20M. Tier 2 studies are “proof of concept” research with a maximum budget of JA \$5M. Proposals will be adjudicated by a panel of experts to select grant awardees. The MOHW will establish research project oversight and reporting requirements. Allocation of funds to researchers will be on a phased basis per achievement of milestones.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Proposal Assessment Criteria Score**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Score</b>
Alignment to the Wellness Priority Areas	20
The necessary qualifications and experience to conduct the proposed research and achieve its stated objectives	10
Demonstrated rationale for pursuing research into indicated Topic	5
Clear, realistic and measurable objectives, which can be achieved within the approved timeframe, using the resources available	10
A clearly defined plan for conducting the research	20
A cogent review of the potential risks to the successful completion and feasible recommendations to minimize or eliminate these risks	5
A pathway to impact on health policy development and/or implementation as well programmes or practices	20
Detailed and justified budget	10
<b>Maximum Possible Score</b>	<b>100</b>