



2019 Safety Grants Program

Call for Proposals

The HIROC Foundation Safety Grants program is seeking proposals from subscribers related to:
Preventing fetal/neonatal harm in the obstetrical-perinatal environment

Purpose and Description

The HIROC Foundation (“the Foundation”) was incorporated on July 4, 2007, without share capital, under the Canada Corporations Act. The Foundation was established to receive and maintain funds and apply such funds to charitable organizations for the purpose of the promotion and development of quality improvement initiatives in Canada. Management of the Foundation is comprised of directors and officers of Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada (“HIROC”).

The purpose of the HIROC Foundation Safety Grants program is to support the HIROC Foundation in its mission of aiding in the promotion and development of improved healthcare services in Canada.

Safety Themes (2019/20)

The following safety theme is the focus of this year’s grant cycle:

- *Preventing fetal/neonatal harm in the obstetrical-perinatal environment.*

Rationale: Childbirth is the main reason for hospital admission across Canada with over 385,770 births in 2018. Obstetrical/perinatal safety incidents are a significant medical-legal issue for healthcare practitioners and organizations, and can signal life-altering harm for the newborns and their family. Such cases represent a relatively small number of claims but disproportionately large claims costs due to high costs of future care. A recent analysis of HIROC’s claims revealed that in over 60% of the cases, infants sustained a critical and/or catastrophic injury (e.g. severe hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy, spastic quadriplegia). One of the most promising prevention strategies to improve obstetrical/perinatal safety and reduce related medical claims is multifaceted quality improvement initiatives.

Grants

Grants up to \$20,000 per recipient are available. Recipients will be recognized and highlighted in various HIROC publications and on HIROC.com.

Deadline to Apply

September 30, 2019 by 5:00 p.m. EST

Eligibility Requirements

- HIROC subscriber
- Application complete
- Application received before deadline
- Initiatives linked to the identified safety theme
- Written support for the grant from a subscriber senior leader / executive
- Funding request for up to \$20,000



2019 Safety Grants Application

Application date	
Organization name and address	
<p>Primary contact</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Title:</p> <p>Email:</p> <p>Phone:</p>	<p>Senior leader / executive</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Title:</p> <p>Email:</p> <p><i>Please include a letter of support from the Senior leader / executive with your application.</i></p>
Title of proposal	
<p>Safety theme</p> <p>Preventing fetal/neonatal harm in the obstetrical-perinatal environment</p>	
<p>Problem: What is the problem? What happens, when, how often/how much, to whom does it happen? (2-3 sentences) Can also include up to 10 citations if appropriate.</p> <p><i>Top score of 5 if all elements of problem are addressed: (a) what/where/when, (b) how often/how much, (c) to whom, and (d) evidence there is a gap.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 point – Vague or 1 element of problem addressed • 2 points – 2 elements of problem addressed • 3 points – 3 elements of problem addressed • 4 points – 4 elements of problem addressed • 1 point for list of citations 	

Citations/external evidence of problem (up to 10)

Aim: What are you trying to achieve? For whom? By when? (1 sentence)

Top score of 5 if all elements of an aim statement are addressed: (a) the specific (usually outcome) measure which the applicant is using in the project; (b) the baseline data for that measure; (c) the target the team has set for that measure; (d) the date by which that goal will be accomplished.

- 1 point – Vague aim, no elements specifically defined
- 2 points – 1 element of aim defined
- 3 points – 2 elements of aim defined
- 4 points – 3 elements of aim defined
- 5 points – All elements of aim defined

Stakeholders: Who are the key stakeholder in the planned changes? How will the interdisciplinary team and patients/families* be involved? (2-3 sentences)

Top score of 4 if all elements are present:

- 1 point – Patient and family noted to be involved in project (not just intervention)
- 1 point – Patient and family included on project team (see end of application)
- 1 point – 2-3 disciplines; 2 points for >3 disciplines
- 1 point – Describing how the stakeholders will be involved

*If it is reasonable to expect, based on the nature of the quality improvement initiative, that patients/families would be team members. For example: One would expect hospitals to involve patients/families with breast feeding or rooming quality improvement initiatives. However, it would not be reasonable to expect patient/family involvement in the rollout of a standard pre/in-use checklist for IV Oxytocin.

Team members: Name, title (include patients and family)

Planned improvements: What are the planned improvements – processes, tools, deliverables (checklist, clinical pathway, etc.) – and what background information (analysis/literature) supports these? (4-6 sentences) Can also include up to 10 citations if appropriate.

Top score of 5 if all elements of planned improvement are addressed: (a) an actual new process/tool/deliverable (not just education or more data collection) and (b) good discussion of rationale for their context. Should also include (c) good review of background evidence to support the plan. Citations/external evidence of problem should be included.

- 1 point – Vague description of planned improvements; improvements primarily involve just education
- 2 points – Planned improvement(s) described but focus on lower-level interventions (e.g. education); no rationale or review of evidence
- 3 points – Planned improvement(s) described; either rationale or review of evidence missing
- 4 points – Planned improvement(s) described; good discussion of rationale
- 1 point – List of citations

Citations/external evidence to support planned improvements (up to 10)

Implementation challenges: What are the major challenges you anticipate (e.g. IT, attitudes, behaviours, culture, time, resources)? (2-3 sentences)

Top score of 5 if all elements are present:

- *1 point – Vague description of challenges*
- *2 points – 1 obstacle noted; 1 or more expected obstacles missing*
- *3 points – 2 obstacles noted; 1 or more expected obstacles missing*
- *4 points – 3 obstacles noted; 1 or more expected obstacles missing*
- *5 points – More than 3 obstacles noted; no expected obstacle missing*

Measures: Brief description of outcomes (1-2), process (2-4) and balancing measure (1-2); reflect dimension of quality (refer to pages 5-6 on how to develop a measurement plan):

<http://www.hqontario.ca/Portals/0/Documents/qi/qi-measurement-primer-en.pdf>

Top score of 5 if brief descriptions of the outcome, process and balancing measures are present. Should reflect dimensions of quality: Safe, Effective, Patient-centred, Efficient, Timely, and Equitable.

- 1 point – 1 outcome measure identified; no process nor balancing measures identified
- 2 points – Outcome measure(s) identified; missing either process or balancing measures
- 3 points – 1 of each outcome/process/balancing measure identified, though some obvious ones may be missing
- 4 points – All appropriate outcome/process/balancing measures identified
- 1 point – Discussion/reference to dimensions of quality

Identify and describe the types of measures you will be using for your project under the applicable dimension of quality.

Quality Dimension	Measure(s)	Outcome, Process or Balancing
Safe		
Effective		
Patient-centred		
Efficient		
Timely		
Equitable		

Budget

Top score of 4 if all elements are present:

- 1 point – Some budget amounts noted but obvious costs are missing
- 2 points – Budget includes 1 type of cost (e.g. personnel, supplies)
- 3 points – Budget includes most personnel, supply and other costs
- 4 points – Budget details personnel, supplies, and other costs and estimates

Please describe:

Personnel hours and/or costs

Supplies costs

Other costs

Total costs

Grant request (\$20,000 maximum)

Funds received from other agencies, if applicable

Schedule: Key dates (project kick off, milestones, etc.) from project timeline

Top score of 5 if all elements are present:

- 1 point – Schedule provides few details (milestones/dates)
- 2 points – Less than three milestones noted; incomplete/unrealistic dates
- 3 points – Schedule has at least three milestones noted, may have obvious missing milestone; realistic dates provided
- 4 points – Schedule is detailed (>3 milestones) and realistic
- 5 points – Schedule is detailed and realistic; substantive work appears doable within first year

Ethics

Does this project require ethics approval in your organization?

- Yes
- No

If yes, what is the current status

- Will be submitted (include expected timeframe)
- Under review
- Approved

Comments (if required)

Terms and Conditions

- Recipient acknowledges funding is for one time only in two installment:
 - One half of funds at beginning.
 - The second half of funds after receipt of interim report confirming that the work has begun. An interim report template will be provided.
- All grant recipients will be required to submit a summary report at the end of the grant cycle which will include performance measures and evaluation of the proposal to-date. A final report template will be provided.
- Summary reports from award recipients will be used to evaluate the success of the grant program and to share learning across the system.
- Recipient agrees to be recognized / interviewed in HIROC communications.
- Recipient agrees to return funds if the project, for any reason, is not activated or does not receive ethics approval (if required).

Please save and submit completed application form by **September 30, 2019 by 5:00 p.m. EST** to grants@hiroc.com.

If you have any questions, please contact grants@hiroc.com.