

Queensland Health Clinical Research Capacity Building Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

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Funding objectives and purpose

What is meant by "research capacity and capability"?

Research capacity and capability refer to the ability of individuals, teams and organisations to undertake, participate in, support and lead research activities. The primary purpose of the Grant is to build research capacity and capability within the Queensland Health clinical workforce. Capacity building may include developing research skills, increasing clinician participation in research activities, strengthening mentoring and supervision, improving research support systems, establishing collaborative networks, and creating sustainable research infrastructure and expertise.

What are examples of strategies that support capacity building?

Support for capacity building may include:

- employment of dedicated research support or technical staff
- mentoring and supervision programs
- clinician-researcher development pathways
- research training and skills development activities
- establishment of research networks or communities of practice
- activities that increase clinician participation in research
- systems and processes that improve research support and coordination.

Eligibility and funding conditions

Who can apply for a Clinical Research Capacity Building Grant?

The Applicant must be employed by a Queensland Health healthcare facility for the duration of the grant. The applicant for this grant does not need to be a clinician or a researcher. However, the suitability of the applicant will be carefully considered for their skills and capacity, as well a sufficient level of commitment/availability, to deliver the initiative.

Does an applicant need an extensive publication or grant funding track record to be competitive?

Not necessarily. The Grant is intended to support research capacity building across the Queensland Health clinical workforce. Applicants should demonstrate that they have the experience, leadership, networks and organisational support necessary to successfully deliver the proposed initiative. Research achievements will be considered in the context of the objectives of the scheme.

Can I apply if I or my collaborators already hold a research capacity grant from a HHS?

Yes, but a strong justification must be provided and the application must clearly demonstrate there is no duplication of funding and the need of requirement of the research support.

What is considered a salaried appointment with Queensland Health or other publicly funded healthcare facility?

A salaried appointment is defined as holding a payroll number with, and being paid directly by, Queensland Health. This criterion must be met at the time of application and applies for the duration of the fellowship.

Can external (non-QH) partners be involved?

Yes, but the Applicant must be employed by Queensland Health, and capacity building must be directed at Queensland Health clinicians.

Do any proposed dedicated research/technical staff to be funded through the Grant have to be recruited to the proposed role at the time of application?

No, but the application must clearly define the required skills and role of the proposed staff.

Do collaborations need to be formally established at the time of application?

No. Collaborations may be existing or proposed. However, applicants should clearly describe the intended collaborators, their expected contribution, and how the collaboration will contribute to research capacity building and the objectives of the Grant.

Can non-clinical staff be employed under this Grant?

Yes. The funding supports dedicated research and technical staff, which may include project officers, ethics/governance officers, data managers, statisticians, etc.

If I have applied for a Clinical Research Fellowship (CRF) Round 8, can I also apply for the Clinical Research Capacity Building Grant?

Yes. Applicants may apply for both grants in this round, and if successful may be awarded for both provided the applications are for distinct purposes (i.e., one supports an individual fellowship and the other supports research capacity building) and there is no duplication of funding proposed. Applicants may also apply for both grants for the same purpose; however, if both applications are successful, funding will only be awarded for one.

Funding use

What can the funding be used for?

The funding can be used for salary costs for dedicated research/technical support staff or other costs not captured in the list of items not eligible for funding as per Funding Guidelines.

Any proposed dedicated research/technical staff funded through the Grant funding can be employed by Queensland Health or a partner organisation (Queensland-based).

Can the funding be used to pay investigator salaries?

No. Salary costs for investigators are not eligible for funding under this Grant.

Can I apply for funding primarily to support a research project?

No. While it is intended that research is enabled through this funding, the primary purpose of the Grant is to build research capacity and capability. Applications that focus primarily on delivering a research project, without a substantial and explicit capacity-building component, will not be considered.

Are institutional overheads, administrative staff, or conference travel covered?

No. Institutional overheads, general operational costs, administrative staff costs, travel, and conference attendance are not eligible.

Can funding be used for specific research training, for example, training in using statistical software?

The primary intent of the Grant is to build the research capacity of clinicians to undertake clinical research activities. If specific research training is essential to successfully undertake research, applicants may include these costs as a component of the budget (not the majority of the budget). All elements of the proposal, including budget items, will be assessed against the objectives of the Grant.

Is there a maximum amount I can apply for, and over what period?

Yes. The maximum funding per application is \$250,000 over three years.

What does “modest equipment costs” mean?

Modest costs mean a reasonable amount within the scope of the overall funding request. It can mean small-scale or project-specific items essential to the research program, justified by demonstrated need and direct relevance to the project objectives.

Can the Grant be used to fund evaluation or quality improvement activities?

The primary purpose of the Grant is to build research capacity and capability. As such, funding is not intended to support evaluation or quality improvement (QI) activities alone. However, evaluation and QI activities can provide an important pathway into research, particularly in clinical services with emerging research capability or limited research infrastructure. This may be especially relevant in regional and remote settings, where evaluation and QI activities often represent an important entry point for developing research skills, fostering a research culture, identifying research questions, and creating opportunities for clinicians to engage in research.

Applicants may therefore include some evaluation or QI where they form part of a broader strategy to develop research capacity and capability. Applications should clearly demonstrate how these activities will contribute to research skill development, research participation, collaboration, progression towards research activity, or other sustainable research capacity-building outcomes.

Applications that focus primarily on service improvement, operational evaluation or quality improvement without a clear and substantial research capacity-building component are unlikely to be competitive.

Can the duration of the proposal be 2 years rather than 3 years?

The funding available for this Grant is up to \$250,000 over up to 3 years. Applicants can put in a proposal for a 2-year program. Post-grant sustainability will be considered in the assessment process.

Application and assessment

What is the difference between the "Research Capacity Building" and the "Research context" sections in the application form?

The research capacity building initiative is the primary focus of the application and refers to the activities, resources, workforce development and collaborations that will build research capability. The research context refers to the research activity that will be enabled through the initiative.

How will applications be assessed if the proposed research program is still in the early stages of development?

The quality and feasibility of the proposed research remain important. However, assessment will focus on the extent to which the proposal builds research capacity and capability, supports collaboration, addresses identified capability gaps, and creates sustainable benefits.

Outcomes and commencement

When will outcomes of this round be announced?

We anticipate outcomes will be communicated in May 2027.

My application was unsuccessful. Am I able to request feedback?

Feedback can be provided to applicants who request this in writing from the Department. The written request must be received within three months of applicants being advised of their outcomes.

If I am notified my application is successful, what are the next steps?

You can commence your proposed program of activity once a fully executed Queensland Health Research Funding Agreement is in place. Shortly after issuing your award letter, the Grants and Fellowships team will contact your Administering Organisation's research office or equivalent to reconfirm the proposed project budget and plans. Our office will then finalise the Agreement and will ask for the Agreement Schedules to be checked. Once the Schedules are confirmed by the Administering Organisation as being correct, Departmental execution will be arranged followed by execution by the Administering Organisation and the successful applicant. The Agreement will then be considered fully executed and activity can commence.

Can I make changes to the research program or capacity-building activities after funding has been awarded?

Yes. Reasonable changes to the approved research program, capacity-building activities, workforce development approach, or use of funded research support resources may be considered where they are justified and remain consistent with the objectives of the Grant. However, any proposed changes must be submitted for consideration and approved by the Delegate before implementation. Funding recipients should not assume that variations will be automatically approved. Requests should clearly describe the proposed change, the rationale, the anticipated impact, and any implications for the budget, timeline or deliverables.

When considering a variation request, Queensland Health will assess whether the proposed changes continue to support the development of research capacity and capability, foster collaboration, and provide value consistent with the intent of the Grant.