



Michael Smith
**Health
Research BC**

Impact Pathways: Engage Award

Applicant Webinar

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We acknowledge with respect and humility that our offices are located on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional lands of the x^wməθk^wəy'əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliiwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

We also acknowledge the diverse First Nations across British Columbia, who have inherent rights rooted in the connection to their lands and waters, which have never been surrendered. In the spirit of reconciliation, we aim to practice cultural safety, value Indigenous ways of knowing, and respect the rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.



Webinar Agenda

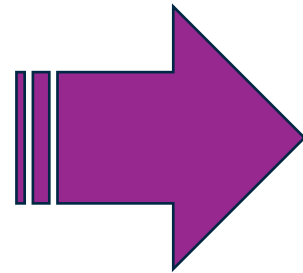
- Engage Award overview
- Who can Apply?
- How to Apply
- Eligibility Check and Review Process
- Additional Information for Host Institution Officials
- Contact Information and Key Dates
- Q&A

Engage Award Overview

Award Amount and Duration



Researchers and
Research Users



\$5,000

4 months

Start date:
August 1, 2026

End date:
November 30, 2026

Purpose and Objectives

Purpose

- To support researchers and research users to explore how they can work together to advance research and the use of research evidence to address challenges in Health Research BC's priority themes.

Objectives:

- Support the creation and development of mutually beneficial relationships between researchers and research users;
- Enable mutual understanding of challenges and/or research priorities within the Health Research BC priority themes; and
- Support researchers, trainees, and research users to build engagement skills.

Health Research BC Priority Themes

Health Research BC has identified four priority themes:

- 1. Population aging**
- 2. Climate change and health**
- 3. Health human resources challenges**
- 4. Public health emergencies**

Event/activity must align with at least one of these themes. Applications will undergo relevance review for alignment with priority themes.

Activities

The Engage Award supports relationship-building events and activities in order to:

- form new connections or relationships between researchers and research users
- strengthen existing connections or relationships between researchers and research users
- support researchers and research users to explore the potential for collaborative production of research and mobilizing research evidence into practice, policy, and the public sphere

The Engage Award does not support:

- Operating funds for research activities
- Dissemination knowledge mobilization activities
- Activities intended for outreach or broad engagement of audiences

Example Events/Activities

Example Event/Activity	Priority Theme alignment	Examples of relevant costs
An in-person meeting to bring together an academic researcher, the Vice President, Population and Public Health from a health authority, and representatives of a community to exchange knowledge about environmental policy and the health impacts of climate change	Climate change and health	Travel and accommodation for the researcher and health authority representative
A bi-monthly series of meetings between an operational leader from the health system, an academic researcher, and a PWLE to better understand how to reduce non-emergency emergency room visits by senior citizens within a region of British Columbia	Population aging	Costs of room booking, light refreshments and costs of care-giving services to enable a PWLE to attend
Two in-person meetings for a researcher, a trainee, and an industry partner to explore the potential to collaborate on a rapid diagnostic tool for the early detection of emerging viral threats in BC.	Public health emergencies	Travel and accommodations for the researcher and trainee, hourly compensation for a trainee to complete administrative tasks
Three sessions where an academic researcher, a clinical nurse specialist, and community representatives discuss how to adapt existing health human resources to improve complex clinical care of an underrepresented community in a region of British Columbia	Health human resources challenges	Travel costs, and release/buy-out time to allow health professionals and community representatives to attend

Award Expenses

The award funds can be spent on:

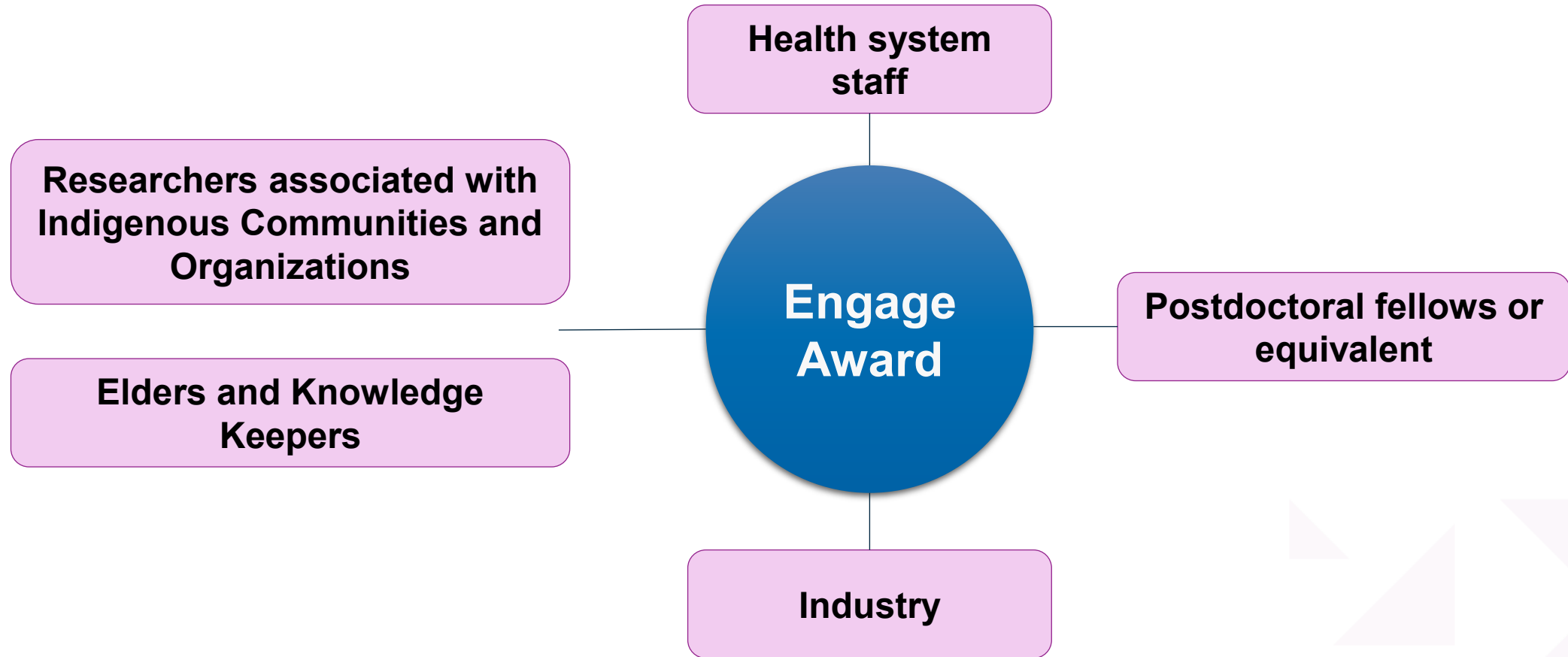
- **salaries and supports to enable participation**, such as buy-out time if the project is outside the expected job duties
- **services and supplies**, such as meeting room and meeting costs
- **travel**, such as travel or accommodation to attend in-person events/activities

The award cannot be spent on:

- Salary or buy-out time for activities that already fall within their expected job duties.
- Expenses occurred prior to or after the funding period, or expenses already funded by another grant

Who Can Apply

What is Unique About the Engage Award?



Who Can Apply

All applications require a **Primary Applicant** and a **Co-Lead**. One of the lead applicants must be a **research user**, one of the lead applicants must be a **researcher**.

Primary Applicant

- May be a researcher or a research user, including research faculty and eligible health system staff.
- Must hold a position at an eligible host institution
- Responsible for for completing and submitting the application form, implementing the events/activities, and managing the award funds.

Co-Lead

- May be a researcher or research user
- Encourage to be involved in planning and/or implementation of proposed events/activities
- Level and type of involvement of the Co-Lead should be appropriate considering their expertise and the content.

Who Can Apply

Health System Staff

- May apply as Primary Applicant
 - Affiliated with an eligible host institution that has a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Health Research BC
 - In a position that allows you to apply for and hold research operating funds
 - Identify a researcher co-lead

Researcher

- May apply as Primary Applicant
 - Affiliated with an eligible host institution that has a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Health Research BC
 - In a position that allows you to apply for and hold research operating funds
 - Identify a research user co-lead

Who Can Apply

Additional Information

- Postdoctoral fellows, clinical research fellows and research associates may apply as a primary applicant; however, they must have all necessary approvals to hold the research funds per their host institution's policy. They may also be named as the Researcher Co-Lead if the primary applicant is a Research User.

Persons with lived experience (PWLE)

- Encourage the inclusion of PWLE, community members, and trainees, where feasible and appropriate.

Additional Information

- Individuals can serve as the primary applicant on only one application and may be designated as a co-lead on up to one other application.

How to Apply

Before You Apply

- Verify eligibility to hold Health Research BC funds
- Develop idea for application with co-lead
- Plan budget
- Names/Roles of people who may be involved in event/activity
- Create ApplyNet account



How to Apply

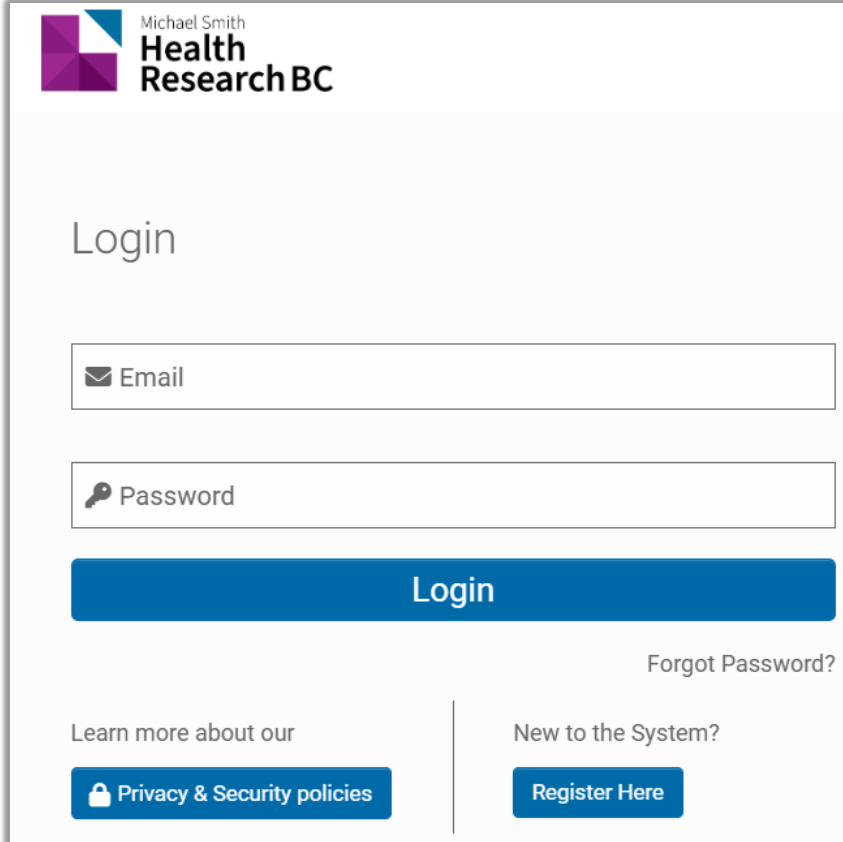
Applications must be completed on Health Research BC ApplyNet

First Time Applicants

- Create system account

Returning applicants

- Sign in to access application form



The screenshot shows the login interface for Michael Smith Health Research BC. At the top left is the logo, which consists of a purple square with a white triangle and the text "Michael Smith Health Research BC". Below the logo, the word "Login" is displayed in a large, grey font. There are two input fields: the first is labeled "Email" with an envelope icon, and the second is labeled "Password" with a key icon. Below these fields is a prominent blue button with the text "Login". To the right of the "Login" button, there is a link that says "Forgot Password?". At the bottom of the page, there are two columns of links. The left column is headed "Learn more about our" and contains a blue button with a lock icon and the text "Privacy & Security policies". The right column is headed "New to the System?" and contains a blue button with the text "Register Here".

How to Apply

Application Form

- Applicant Profile
- Primary Applicant and Co-Lead contacts and roles
- Event/Activity information
 - Title
 - Alignment with Health Research BC priority area
 - Brief event/activity plan, which includes a gap, opportunity or challenge you are hoping to address, a description of the event, participants and anticipated outcomes (2500 characters, approx. ½ page)
- Event/Activity Budget

ApplyNet Demo – Application Launch Process

Eligibility Check and Review Process

Eligibility Check and Review Process

Review

- Health Research BC staff conduct a relevance and administrative review; applications pass or fail this review. If they pass, they advance to the lottery.

Funding Decisions

- Will be made using a **modified lottery approach**.
- Grouped into five funding pools based on geographic area of host institution. Number of applications funded in each pool will be proportional to the number of applications received in each pool
- Successful applicants will be contacted with instructions on how to accept the award.

Eligibility Check and Review Process

Following submission deadline, Health Research BC staff will check that applications meet competitions requirements.

Relevance Review

- Are applications in alignment with the purpose and objectives of the competition
- Do the applications align with at least one of the Health Research BC priority themes?

Eligibility Check and Review Process

Administrative Review

- The events/activities align with an **identified gap, opportunity or challenge**
- The event/activity plan includes a **description of the format, venue, participants and anticipated outcomes**
- The budget:
 - aligns with the event/activity plan
 - is feasible
 - adheres to the allowable expenses

Funding pools

Funding Pools

Applications will be placed into regional funding pools based on the host institution of the primary applicant.

Health Research BC reserves the right to reassign an application should they be deemed to better aligned with a different funding pool.

Regional Funding Pools
Fraser Health Authority Region
Island Health Authority Region
Interior Health Authority Region
Northern Health Authority Region
Vancouver Coastal Health Authority Region

Coming this fall: Mobilize award

- \$20,000 value
- Will involve researchers and research users
- Supports knowledge mobilization activities
- Must align with our four priority themes
- More information and application launch in fall 2026, awards to be conferred in early spring 2027

Contact Information and Key Dates

Contact Information and Key Dates

Engage Award Key Dates	
Application deadline	May 25, 2026, 4:30 p.m. PDT
Host institution approval deadline	June 1, 2026, 4:30 p.m. PDT
Anticipated notice of funding decision	Early July 2026
Anticipated start of funding	August 1, 2026
Funds must be spent by	November 30, 2026

For questions regarding the application and submission process, please contact:

Andrew Biagtan

Coordinator, Research Competitions

604.714.6602

impactpathways@healthresearchbc.ca

For technical support with ApplyNet, please contact:

Health Research BC Help Desk

604.714.6609 | 1.866.673.4722

helpdesk@healthresearchbc.ca

Thank you!

