CBS Centre for Innovation

Program Support Award for Canadian Transfusion Medicine and Science Research
2014 Application Guidelines

Funding Opportunity: The purpose of the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) “Program Support” award is to accelerate research, facilitate training of highly qualified persons, and promote national excellence in the safety, quality and supply of blood, blood products and stem cells in the service of Canadian patients. The Program Support award will provide funding to Canadian centres, which have an established track record in Transfusion Medicine and/or Transfusion Science research, in order to accelerate research progress and training in relevant programs.

This funding opportunity is open to all Canadian University- or Hospital- based research groups with established programs in transfusion medicine and/or transfusion science. The maximum award per group is $250,000 per annum for up to three years. Up to three groups across Canada may be supported as a result of this competition.

Application Deadline: Applications are due by the close of business on Monday, March 3, 2014. Electronic submission is acceptable (to cilla.perry@blood.ca) provided that the signatures of the principal applicant and the individual binding the recipient institution to financial responsibility are present in the submission (see below).

Application Format: The application should be made by a single individual in a senior leadership role in their centre, on behalf of the group. There are no application forms but the application should address the following three (3) sections using 12 point Times New Roman font with minimum 2.0 cm margins on all sides or an equivalent-sized font.

Section 1 will contain the core of the proposal. This section should not exceed 10 typewritten pages, excluding references, figures, or tables. Section 1 must include:

a) A description of the established research program, and of the proposed enhancements to be made with the CBS funding, emphasizing its relevance to key knowledge gaps in transfusion science and/or transfusion medicine. Eligible programs may emphasize basic or clinical research or both. Include thorough descriptions of the main research areas of the program and the names of the principal investigators involved in the program, and identify those directly involved in the activities to be supported by CBS. If the program’s investigators conduct research other than transfusion-related research, please provide information on the percentage of effort placed towards transfusion-related topics. Applicants should ensure that they justify the need for the programmatic support. How will the requested resources, if provided, enable the centre to accelerate its research agenda in the service of Canadian patients? Note that relevant lists and tables should be included in Section 2 (see below).
b) A description of the training program. Provide a brief history (over the last 5 years) of the training program in place at your centre, and how the requested resources will further facilitate the centre’s training activities. How many trainees are currently involved in the program’s activities and at what level? Include undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, undergraduate and post-graduate medical students in this count. Note that relevant lists and tables should be included in Section 2 (see below).

Section 2 should list program outputs (e.g. papers, patents, grant funding and any other relevant information) over the past 5 years that demonstrate the degree to which your program is established and impactful. Appropriate tables may be used in this section. Lists and tables may also be used here to detail the number and nature of principal investigators and trainees in your program. There is no page limit for this section.

Section 3 must be used to describe the financial resources that are required in a detailed, well-justified budget. Note that no funds will be made available for salary support to principal investigators or for equipment. This section may not exceed 5 typewritten pages. The budget section should be followed by a signed statement from the appropriate institutional authority concerning acceptance of fiscal responsibility for management of any funds awarded.

Assessment of applications: Applications will be reviewed and ranked by a scientific and medical review committee that is at arm’s length from all lead applicants. Criteria for assessment will include:

a) Past research productivity of the group, past track record in the training of highly qualified personnel, the appropriateness of the general research strategy of the centre to address knowledge gaps in transfusion medicine and/or transfusion science; and

b) The excellence of the proposed activities and the potential for these activities to accelerate/enhance the centre’s research progress and training.

Successful applicants will be notified by March 31, 2014, and funding will be made available as soon as is practical in the fiscal year commencing April 1, 2014. Successful groups must comply with all reporting requirements to secure release of funds for each year of the award.

Further information: Please contact Cilla Perry, Manager, Centre for Innovation, Canadian Blood Services, at cilla.perry@blood.ca.