WCB
Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba

GRANTS PROGRAM GUIDE

September 2026

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1. Introduction

The WCB Grants Program works with stakeholders and others to advance the understanding of work-related injuries and illnesses and workers' compensation.

The program supports projects aimed at improving workplace health and safety, reducing the impact of workplace injuries and illnesses and enhancing the effectiveness of Manitoba's workers' compensation system.

The program is aligned with the WCB's strategic framework, meaning that projects that inform the strategic interests of Manitoba's workers' compensation system and its stakeholders are valued and encouraged.

1.1 Objectives

The program's main objectives are:

- Advance knowledge of workplace injuries and illness and workers' compensation.
- Develop collaborative research partnerships.
- Promote practical solutions with potential to reduce the impact of injuries and illness and improve return to work outcomes.
- Evaluate interventions, inform policy development and support innovation.

1.2 Funding priorities

The program supports high-quality projects in the general area of work-related illness and injury and workers' compensation. Funding priorities can change over time, but the types of projects typically given priority are those that address the most pressing issues facing the workers' compensation system in Manitoba at any given time.

The WCB may initiate projects to address specific strategic priority areas or engage in partnerships on projects of mutual interest. Proponents should consult the WCB website for the most up-to-date information on WCB priorities.

Broad funding priorities include:

- Efficacy, fairness and responsiveness of the workers' compensation system.
- The future of work and the changing nature of claims.
- Return to work.
- Reducing the impact of injury and illness (includes prevention).

Within these broad parameters, any project or line of inquiry may be considered, encompassing a wide array of disciplines and subject matter expertise. This may include everything from the medical and rehabilitation sciences to epidemiology and population health studies, economics and statistics, the study of work, and the law. When the WCB engages the scientific research community in grant funding, it follows requirements typical of academic research institutions.

2. Applying for funding

Proponents may respond to the WCB's **annual request for proposals**, conducted through its website, or make unsolicited inquiries of the WCB on research or project ideas through the WCB Grants Program Coordinator (the Coordinator).

2.1 Annual grant funding

There are two stages to the annual grants process. Applicants submit a brief proposal (Letter of Intent), which is screened by a WCB review panel. Following this review, applicants may be invited to submit full proposals, which are subject to a more comprehensive evaluation to determine whether to approve grant funding.

Letter of Intent (LOI)

Proponents interested in grant opportunities should submit an LOI to the WCB during its annual grant process, using the LOI form on the website (link).

An LOI is an expression of interest in a topic that is aligned with the WCB's strategic priorities and a formal request for WCB grant funding. An LOI is meant to be concise. It should contain a brief description of the project, including problem statement, approach/methodology, expected impact, a list of team members with their expertise and a budget.

Proponents are encouraged to discuss project ideas informally with the

Coordinator while completing the LOI. This can help determine whether the topic meets program criteria and assists in refining the LOI.

Full proposal

LOIs shortlisted by the review panel are invited to submit a full proposal using the template on the WCB website. Full proposals must contain a detailed project description containing the following:

- Project goals and objectives.
- Proposed approach, methodology.
- Explanation of the project's significance and potential impact, and how it addresses a specific problem.
- Detailed budget breakdown with financial control measures.
- Timelines and schedule to complete the project research, including key milestones and deliverables.
- Results: expected outcomes and how they can be disseminated/implemented.
- Relevant previous experience and related projects.
- Supporting materials: appendices, letters of support and resumes of key personnel.

Proposals should also identify any other funding applications for the same project, either active, pending, or planned.

The review panel assesses full proposals on a case-by-case basis and makes recommendations to the WCB executive. The Coordinator will advise applicants whether the WCB has decided to fund their proposal.

An invitation to submit a full proposal does not guarantee acceptance. Not all proposals will be accepted. Full proposals must be submitted to the Coordinator by the posted deadline.

Notable deadlines

- Annual call for LOIs: First business day in October
- Closing date for LOIs: Mid-November
- Notice of LOI screening decisions: Mid-January
- Closing date for full proposals: Mid-March
- Notice of decision on full proposals: End of June

2.2 Other grant funding

The WCB may also initiate projects on its own to address strategic priority areas or enter into partnerships for projects of mutual interest.

The WCB may consider requests for grant funding outside of the annual grants process where the proposed project is of strategic interest to the WCB. This is done on a proof-of-concept basis.

3 Eligibility & selection criteria

3.1 Who can apply

The program is open to anyone in Canada, but grants are more likely to be awarded to Manitoba-based projects that have potential impacts on Manitoba's workers' compensation system.

Collaboration and partnerships are encouraged, especially financial or in-kind support from stakeholders or organizations with established links to Manitoba workplaces and Manitoba's workers' compensation system.

3.2 Types of projects eligible

The WCB supports projects in priority areas that are aligned with its mandate. In evaluating proposals, the WCB looks for proposals that have:

- Relevance to Manitoba.
- Potential for positive system impacts or outcomes (e.g., reducing injury or illness impacts).
- Probability of being applied meaningfully in workplaces.
- Stakeholder support.
- An appropriate methodology, with qualified and experienced people.
- A feasible project plan and timeline.
- An appropriate budget with demonstrated financial controls.

4 Funding

There is no maximum, but amounts generally do not exceed $200,000. Projects are typically funded for 12 to 24 months.

Proponents can apply for partial funding and then reapply in subsequent grant years using the same project plan, but there is no obligation on the part of the WCB to fund subsequent years or additional project costs.

4.1 Funding agreements

Projects selected for funding require a funding agreement (contract), which must be approved and executed before any funds are disbursed. The funding agreement contains financial and other project requirements (e.g., reporting).

Funds are typically disbursed over the course of the project upon receipt of project deliverables outlined in the funding agreement. Following completion, unspent grant funds are to be returned to the WCB.

The WCB may terminate a grant where the recipient has failed to meet requirements or deliverables set out in the funding agreement.

4.2 Eligible expenses

Salaries for project personnel, costs associated with data collection and analysis, equipment and materials directly related to the project and project-related travel (based on WCB rates) are all potentially eligible. Reasonable administrative costs may be eligible. Expenses incurred prior to the project's approval date are not.

4.3 Access to WCB data

In some cases, applicants may require WCB data to complete a proposal or project. When sharing WCB data, the WCB must comply with relevant provisions in *The Workers Compensation Act,* applicable access and privacy legislation (i.e. *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) and *The Personal Health Information Act* (PHIA)), and WCB Policy 21.50, *Information Protection, Access and Disclosure*. Prior to sharing data, an information-sharing agreement may also be required.

The WCB cannot guarantee the availability of the requested data and any assistance with interpreting data is provided at the WCB's discretion.

Contact the WCB Grants Program Coordinator: Grants@wcb.mb.ca