



Toward a Learning Health System Network For Early Intervention in Psychosis

Introduction

The Graham Boeckh Foundation is issuing this funding call to support planning for the development of learning health systems (LHS) for early psychosis intervention (EPI). In particular, the grant will support planning and engagement activities and the creation of an investment-ready roadmap for development of LHSs across the country. It will help the EPI sector to be successful in accessing other sources of funding that would facilitate the implementation of the roadmap. Below, we set out the process and terms for the awarding of a single grant in the amount of up to \$200,000.

A learning health system (LHS) is a healthcare environment where research, data, and knowledge, including lived experience, are integrated into clinical practice, allowing for continuous improvement and innovation.

The Graham Boeckh Foundation is a family foundation that is focussed on improving access and outcomes for mental health services across Canada, especially in the areas of early intervention and youth mental health ([Graham Boeckh Foundation](#)).

1. Context

EPI is an evidence-based and team-based model of care integrating pharmacological and psychosocial approaches to intervene early for individuals experiencing psychosis. Across Canada, the EPI sector has made significant progress in terms of clinical impact, expansion of coverage, development of service standards, research capacity and initial steps in the creation of learning health systems (LHSs). This progress creates an opportunity for the sector to be a leader in the development of an organized and pan-Canadian approach to LHSs.

This approach would support provincial/territorial efforts to strengthen EPI services, for example regarding:

- Data infrastructure, measurement, and continuous learning
- Adherence to service standards

- More effective collaboration and service pathways across health, social services and justice sectors for early psychosis, including for integrated youth services, substance use care, primary care and hospital-based services
- Improved access to EPI services including outside of large urban areas

2. Funding Details

- **Duration:** 2 years
- **Funding range:** Up to \$200,000 CAD
- **Number of awards:** One
- **Selection:** Open, merit-based competition

3. Eligibility

A **Principal Investigator** must be identified who holds a primary academic position that allows the individual to engage in independent research activities. The Principal Investigator must be based in, or formally affiliated with, an eligible Canadian host institution such as a university, research institute or health care agency. Additional participants may include researchers, health care practitioners, policy makers, decision makers, health care administrators, and knowledge users more widely. Youth and family members should also serve as application participants.

Multi-institutional applicant teams are encouraged, but one organization must serve as the primary **host institution** (affiliated with the Principal Investigator) and administer the funds. The host institution must enter into an agreement with GBF to receive the grant funds. This agreement will confirm that the host institution has adequate physical and administrative infrastructure for conducting the proposed grant activities and has a formal policy on the responsible conduct of research. The grant agreement will also contain a disclaimer and indemnity clause.

In addition, all applications must demonstrate:

- Established expertise in EPI
- Experience leading multi-jurisdictional initiatives in Canada
- Capacity to convene provincial/territorial stakeholders
- Meaningful engagement of youth and family partners
- Leadership in service quality improvement and research infrastructure
- Geographically-diverse consortia are encouraged

All application information will be kept confidential by GBF. Confidentiality and conflict of interest will be assessed for anyone with access to application information (e.g. review committee members).

4. Deliverables and Reporting

The selected applicant team is expected to deliver the following:

A. Vision and Roadmap

- A pan-Canadian EPI LHS vision
- A plan for LHSs in EPI with a 3–5 year time horizon
- Proposed phased implementation model
- A high-level budget framework
- Strategy to access potential funding sources to support a 3–5 year initiative
- Strategy to ensure sustainability beyond a research grant
- An investment case outlining the potential system impact and benefit to society
- A final report and dissemination presentation

B. National Landscape Mapping

- Mapping of EPI services and capacity for implementation of a LHS across jurisdictions, including existing funding structures and governance models
- Identification of research and data capacity, including data infrastructure, interoperability, and data governance challenges
- Assessment of workforce, training needs and opportunities
- Ethics and privacy considerations
- Alignment with existing research and data initiatives that could be relevant for EPI, to leverage capacity and avoid duplication

C. Network Design and Sector Engagement

- Development of a proposed governance and implementation model for a pan-Canadian network including a partnership plan
- Engagement of provincial and territorial stakeholders, including health system leaders
- Inclusion of clinicians, researchers, policymakers, youth and families
- Consideration of Indigenous partnership

D. LHS Design Framework

- Articulation of LHS principles for EPI in Canada
- Development of a proposed framework to support continuous learning and improvement
- A data strategy including framework for data infrastructure and core data elements
- Strategy for integrating research within care settings

Interim progress reporting will be required approximately every six months. These updates may take the form of brief written reports or verbal progress discussions with GBF and relevant partners. GBF and partners reserve the right to use the knowledge from the reporting to inform subsequent funding opportunities.

GBF may convene an advisory group to provide high-level guidance and perspective. The funded team may be invited to engage with this group periodically.

5. Application Process

All applications must include:

1. A one-page public summary/abstract that articulates the relevance of the project for Canadian society including for youth and families affected by early psychosis.
2. A detailed proposal (up to 5 pages) including overall goals and aims of the project, approach, rationale, and deliverables (see 4. *Deliverables and Reporting* for more information). Details on the applicant team members, including youth and family partners, and how they are integrated into the proposed work must be included. An additional 2 pages (max) of figures/tables/charts and associated legends are permitted.
3. All applicant team members (excluding collaborators) are required to submit a brief CV (maximum three pages per applicant). [CIHR Biosketch CV](#) (or equivalent) for academic applicants and [CIHR Applicant Profile CV](#) (or equivalent) for non-academic applicants is recommended.
4. A budget and justification providing rationale for the requested activities and personnel, including stakeholders, where appropriate (see 8. *Budget Guidelines* below).
5. Applications must identify the host institution that will serve as the administrative host for the grant. The host institution will be responsible for administering funds, coordinating reporting requirements, and serving as a point of contact with GBF.

6. Evaluation Criteria

GBF will perform a review of relevance and other required elements for all applications received. Applications that are deemed not relevant or not meeting the application requirements outlined in this funding call will be withdrawn from the competition.

Applications proceeding to full review will be assessed by an independent selection panel of Canadian and international experts. Evaluation criteria will include:

A. Planning and Engagement Strategy

- A clear articulation of a plan to achieve the elements set out in section 4.
- Meaningful stakeholder engagement
- Consideration of equity, including Indigenous inclusion

B. Leadership & Team Capacity

- Demonstrated expertise

- Multi-jurisdictional representation
- Inclusion of youth/family partners

C. Feasibility & Work Plan

- Realistic timeline and milestones
- Clear deliverables
- Budget justification

Further details on the decision process can be provided to applicants whose applications proceed to full review.

7. Submission and Timeline

Submissions are to be emailed to (info@grahamboeckhfoundation.org) and Ian Boeckh (ian@bcccl.ca). Here are the relevant dates:

- Call released: April 23, 2026
- Deadline for proposal submission: June 5, 2026
- Decision date: early July, 2026
- Grant start: To be discussed with the funded network

The names of the funded applicants and the public summary of the selected application may be published by GBF and partners.

8. Budget Guidelines

Funding is intended to primarily support planning, engagement, and network design activities.

Funds may be used for:

- Stakeholder convenings and structured engagement (including youth/family compensation)
- Personnel (staff for coordination, analysis, facilitation, and project management). The maximum allocated per eligible individual cannot exceed \$50,000 over the course of the grant.
- Travel and collaboration costs
- Environmental scans and data mapping
- Technical consultations
- Knowledge translation and dissemination

Funds may not be used for:

- Direct clinical service delivery

- Program expansion
- Capital expenditures
- Large-scale IT development or implementation
- Clinical trials or independent research studies
- Salaries or release-time for academic/clinical applicants

Budgets should reflect the pan-Canadian scope and ambition of the initiative.

9. Long-Term Vision

GBF seeks to catalyze a shared and coordinated LHS approach for EPI services across Canada—improving quality, accelerating innovation, strengthening accountability, and advancing equitable access to high-quality early psychosis care. Future funding beyond this planning phase is not guaranteed. It will depend on the availability of funds and the demonstrated readiness, alignment, and partnership development in the EPI sector.

10. Contacts

For basic questions on GBF funding guidelines and how to apply, please contact the main GBF office by e-mail: info@grahamboeckhfoundation.org

For questions on strategic issues relating to this initiative, please contact:

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