PURPOSE

Gambling Research Exchange Ontario (GREO) is an independent knowledge translation and exchange organization that aims to eliminate harm from gambling. Our goal is to support evidence-informed decision making in the development and implementation of responsible gambling policies, standards, and practices.

OLG is committed to using the best evidence available to inform their Responsible Gambling strategies and provides funding for the generation of new knowledge to inform these activities.

GREO supports the generation and exchange of new knowledge by managing the solicitation, review, funding, and project management on behalf of OLG. GREO facilitates external reviews of proposed projects to ensure the highest standards of integrity. In this way, GREO provides functional separation, supports intellectual freedom, and protects the intellectual property of researchers. GREO’s full transparency statement is available at greo.ca, in the About Us section.

Priority Areas: GREO is accepting applications for research projects aligned with the following OLG directed priorities.

PRIORITY AREA 1: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Identified Research Questions:

• What are the impacts of evolving digital technology?
  • Areas of interest include (but are not limited to) e-instants (online lottery and scratch), online sports betting, casino registration through mobile technologies

• What are effective and meaningful player support tools and mechanisms that can be put into place to protect/support and reduce harm to players in a digital environment?

Scope of projects could include:

• Conduct a review of current apps for gaming – how do players engage with these apps? What aspects could be potentially harmful?

• Review self-help apps/digital tools for gambling or other related harm-reduction apps – how are these apps helpful? Could include focus group / consultations with users.
• Conduct a review of mobile self-exclusion – Using the PlayRight app in the UK, or other, pilot test utility of the product

• Explore player support tools specific to digital play and compare to current RG tools. What types of tools are most effective in reducing player harm?

**PRIORITY AREA 2: SPORTS BETTING**

**Identified Research Questions:**

• What are the current trends in sports betting behaviours? What risks have been identified and what are the potential mitigation strategies?

• What do Ontarians think of single event sports betting? What do they know?

**Scope of projects could include:**

• Gain a better understanding of the sports betting player profile including knowledge, behaviours, participation, etc.
  ▪ Synthesize existing or develop new knowledge

• Conduct a jurisdictional review of sports betting that identifies:
  ▪ Sports betting behavior; and
  ▪ Current best practices in responsible gambling (RG)

• Risk
  ▪ What are the risks? Identify highest risk forms of sports betting
  ▪ What initiatives could mitigate risk? Propose/pilot tools to mitigate risks

**PRIORITY AREA 3. SELF-EXCLUSION – BREACHING**

**Identified Research Questions:**

• Understanding breaches and why they occur – specific populations that breach, breach predictability, the extent to which people breach and possible differences in sub-populations for multiple breaches?

• What are the characteristics of individuals who self-exclude and breach, and of those that seek treatment?

**Scope of projects could include:**

• Mixed methods approaches encouraged, e.g., focus groups on breaching/ potential interventions/supports participants would find useful before, after, and at time of breach, test success of those supports
Deepen understanding of player trajectory prior to risk event, e.g., self-exclusion or treatment-seeking
- Qualitative research interviewing a group of treatment seekers/self-excluders and studying some of the following concepts:
  - Gambling motivations
  - Gambling style (i.e. alone versus social, types of games)
  - Limit setting behavior/ RG behaviours used
  - When they diverged from normal behavior and when they felt necessary to seek treatment
  - Risk factors
  - When do people determine they are ready to seek treatment/self-exclude?

Could potentially use Quinte Longitudinal Study for secondary analysis and reviewing characteristics of a specific population of gamblers (combine with interviews for mixed-methods)

DELIVERABLES

A brief summary report to be posted to GREO’s website following project completion. If data are collected, the dataset and accompanying documentation must be housed in the GREO repository within one year of project completion. In the spirit of open science, it will be made available for secondary analysis. Other deliverables to be determined at the project kick off meeting.

INTERNATIONAL

Any researcher working in Canada (or Internationally) is eligible to apply. For submissions originating outside Ontario, collaboration with Ontario organizations or researchers is preferred.

At the time of application, the principal investigator(s) and co-investigator(s) must demonstrate the appropriate level of research training and experience required to carry out the proposed research.

Private sector applicants are eligible for awards as long as the proposed research is not aligned with the development of commercial products or programs.

VALUE AND DURATION

Project Term: The term of the project cannot exceed one year. Unless otherwise indicated, projects will start on July 31st 2018 and must be completed no later than July 30th 2019.

Award: Up to $50,000 depending on the scale of the project (including all expenses, direct and indirect, and all applicable taxes). Applicants must submit a detailed budget that justifies the proposed project and its costs.
SCHEDULE

April 23rd, 2018 - Open solicitation
May 10th, 2018 - Notice of Intent to Apply deadline
June 8th, 2018 - Application submission deadline (5:00 pm EST)
July 6th, 2018 - Funding notifications
July 23rd, 2018 - Project kick off meeting
July 31st, 2018 - Project start date

HOW TO APPLY

Please ensure all uploaded documents are in one of the following formats: .doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx, .pdf.

1. Application cover page
2. Abstract
3. Research proposal
4. System support, access, ethical considerations
5. Applicant’s curriculum vitae
6. Appendices (if applicable, max. 5 pages)

1. Application Cover Page
The cover page should include the following:

• Title of the proposal

• Name of sponsoring organization

• Status of sponsoring organization (e.g., not-for-profit, hospital, university, etc.)

• Investigator names and contact information (institutional affiliation, title, address, telephone and fax numbers, email address)

• Dates of proposed period of support

• Total dollar amount requested

• Dated signatures of:
  ▪ Principal Investigator
  ▪ Project Contact person (if different from above)
  ▪ Individual authorized to sign on behalf of the sponsoring organization
2. Abstract
Describe the 1) purpose and significance, 2) rationale, 3) methodology, and 4) potential implications of the proposed research as it relates to the identified priority area and research question you have identified (max. 400 words).

3. Project Application
Project Section Requirements - The project proposal section requirements are detailed in the following chart. Must not exceed four-single spaced pages (excluding references and appendices)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Clearly state the purpose of the proposed research activity and link to the identified priority question</td>
<td>Degree to which the proposed research activity will answer the identified priority area’s research question /5</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Describe the major problem, or conceptual/theoretical/pragmatic question(s) this research seeks to address.</td>
<td>Degree to which the problem/question the research is intended to address is clear /5</td>
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<td><strong>Significance:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Detail the ways in which this research will make an important contribution or add value to the gambling studies field, with either applied or theoretical importance.</td>
<td>Degree to which the proposed research is likely to make an important contribution to the gambling studies field /5</td>
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<tr>
<th>RATIONALE/LITERATURE REVIEW</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mandatory Requirement</strong></td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• State the hypothesis(es) or research question(s).</td>
<td>Degree to which hypothesis(es) or research questions are clearly stated /5</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Briefly review key areas of the literature related to your project, clearly demonstrating how the rationale behind your project is informed by relevant evidence</td>
<td>Degree to which the proposed project draws upon and is informed by relevant evidence /5</td>
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</table>
• Discuss the theoretical framework or conceptual model that will guide your research.
Degree to which theoretical framework or conceptual model used to guide the research is clearly explained /5

• Clearly show how the theoretical framework or conceptual model will guide your proposed project.
Degree to which the theoretical framework or conceptual model is logically and thoughtfully applied to the proposed project /5

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**METHODOLOGY FOR QUANTITATIVE/DEDUCTIVE STUDIES** /30

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<tr>
<th>Mandatory Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Quantitative/deductive studies:</strong> Please adequately describe the following areas in relation to your proposed project:</td>
<td>The following areas will be scored based on the degree to which they are clear, logically outlined, and make sense in the context of the research question(s).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Identification of the population, sample, and sampling procedures</td>
<td>Identification of the population, sample and sampling procedures /5</td>
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<tr>
<td>• A discussion of ethical considerations</td>
<td>Description of the site or setting for the research, as well as the selection of participants /5</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Identification of main variables (independent and dependent variables) and how they are to be measured (operationalization of concepts).</td>
<td>Discussion of the researcher’s role, including entry, reciprocity, and ethical considerations /5</td>
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<td>• Identification of any intervening, control, or conditional variables.</td>
<td>Description of how data are to be managed and recorded /5</td>
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<tr>
<td>• A description of the data collection procedures (e.g., use of surveys).</td>
<td>Description of proposed data analysis strategies /5</td>
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<td>• A description of data analysis procedures.</td>
<td>Description of data analysis procedures /5</td>
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## METHODOLOGY FOR QUALITATIVE/INDUCTIVE STUDIES

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<td>Description of the site or setting for the research, as well as the selection of participants /5</td>
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<tr>
<td>• A discussion of the researcher’s role, including entry, reciprocity, and ethical considerations.</td>
<td>Discussion of the researcher’s role, including entry, reciprocity, and ethical considerations /5</td>
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<tr>
<td>• A discussion of initial research strategies and data collection techniques (e.g. observation, unstructured or semi-structured interviews).</td>
<td>Discussion of initial research strategies and data collection techniques (e.g. observation, unstructured or semi-structured interviews) /5</td>
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<td>• A description of how data are to be managed and recorded.</td>
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## KNOWLEDGE TRANSITION PLAN

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<td>• Describe which audiences benefit from these knowledge translation products and in what way.</td>
<td>Degree to which it is clear how target audiences are intended to use/benefit from KT products and activities /5</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Describe the knowledge user engagement plan</td>
<td>Degree to which the knowledge user engagement plan is appropriate and comprehensive /5</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Describe how will you actively disseminate these products/ implement strategies.</td>
<td>Degree to which it is clear how KT products/ activities will be disseminated and/or implemented /5</td>
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BUDGET AND TIMELINES

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<td>• Please fill out the provided budget form and timeline sheets to submit with your application package. Include a justification/rationale for each cost listed under the pre-populated headings in addition to any miscellaneous costs not listed in the categories.</td>
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<td>Indicate components of your project that are provided in-kind on the budget form. Refer to the Eligible and Ineligible Expense guidelines on greo.ca for complete information on what to include in your budget.</td>
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<td>Degree to project appears feasible within the timeline /5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Degree to which budget breakdown logically reflects project work /5</td>
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4. **System Support, Access, and Ethical Considerations**

- **System support**: Describe the academic/research support available from your organization. Include both financial and ‘in kind’ contributions, if applicable.

- **Access**: Please indicate if the proposed research will require access to Ontario Lottery and Gaming (OLG) sites, suppliers, slots laboratory or staff. Note that access requests must be made directly to GREO and will be negotiated under GREO’s memorandum of understanding with OLG. Funding is conditional upon access approval. Please note that Data Access Request for OLG Player data are not being accepted at this time.

- **Ethical considerations**: Applicants must obtain research ethics approval and funding is conditional ethics approval being granted.

5. **Curriculum Vitae**

Submit the most current version of your curriculum vitae using .pdf format.

6. **Budget**

- Complete the budget summary template. Allowable budget expense categories include personnel, equipment, supplies, human subjects, and travel expenses. The budget summary template and expense guidelines can be found in the Programs and Services > Academic Engagement > Directed Research Projects section of our website.
7. Appendices

You may submit additional information to support your application. Appendices are limited to a maximum of five (5) pages.

• When including more than one appendix, please combine into a single .pdf.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Please send an email with a brief cover letter in the body of the email. Send the application package as one continuous document as a pdf. Use the following format to organize your application:

• Title page
• Abstract
• Research proposal
• System support, access, ethical considerations
• Applicant’s curriculum vitae
• Appendices (if applicable)

Please submit all documents via email to Erika Veri Levett (erika@greo.ca)
by 5:00 pm EST on June 8th, 2018

QUESTIONS

Please send questions or comments to:

**Erika Veri Levett**

Knowledge Broker, Research
Gambling Research Exchange Ontario
214A-55 Wyndham St, North, Guelph, ON N1H 7T8
E-mail: erika@greo.ca