



Kenora and Rainy River Community Investment Program Application Guidelines

Research Stream

Greo reserves the right to edit or amend these Application Guidelines up to and including September 25, 2026. Any updates will be published publicly, with the most current version available [on our website](#). EOI applicants will be contacted directly in the event of any changes to the Application Guidelines.

Last Updated: June 2026

Call for Applications to the Research Stream is now open



Details about this funding opportunity are outlined herein. See below for important deadlines related to this call.



Funding Call Schedule

- | | |
|--|---|
| • June 11, 2026 | Call for applications open |
| • June 11, 2026 – January 22, 2027 | Question Period |
| • October 2, 2026 | Expression of Interest (EOI) deadline (23:59 CST) |
| • January 29, 2027 | Application submission deadline (23:59 CST) |
| • February 1, 2027 – February 26, 2027 | Review period |
| • March 1, 2027 | Funding notifications |
| • March 2, 2027 – March 31, 2027 | Contracting period |
| • April 1, 2027 | Project start date |
| • March 30, 2029 | Project completion date |



For more information, contact submissions@greo.ca.

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Application Guidelines Overview

What is this program?

This Community Investment Program (CIP) supports communities in Kenora and Rainy River to strengthen resilience and reduce gambling-related harms.

These Application Guidelines are for the Research Stream, which funds the expansion or enhancement of new or existing gambling support services within the focus communities.



Research Stream funding at-a-glance

- **Funding:** Up to \$200,000 per project
- **Project term:** 24 months
- **Timeline:** April 1, 2027 – March 30, 2029
- **Total funding envelope:** \$600,000 (between both streams)



Who can apply?

To be eligible, the Principal Applicant or Co-Principal Applicant must:

- Be a researcher affiliated with an academic institution or organization in Ontario (e.g., PhD candidate, postdoctoral fellow, faculty member)
- Have demonstrated relationships in the Kenora and Rainy River region
- Ensure grant funds will flow through an Ontario academic institution

Project teams may also include:

- Researchers inside or outside the region
- Independent researchers or individuals with practice-based expertise and / or lived experience



What kinds of projects are eligible?

Projects must:

- Based in Kenora or the Rainy River region
- Generate evidence around gambling harm prevention, education, and / or support
- Informed by evidence, which can include community-engaged research with those who have lived and living experience and / or professional experience
- Suitable for the funding stream, as described in Section 2.2
- Submitted in English



How to apply

Step 1: Expression of Interest (EOI; required)

- Expression of Interest Form
- Deadline: October 2, 2026 (23:59 CST)

Step 2: Full Application (required)

- Application Form
- Appendix A (CVs / bios)
- Deadline: January 29, 2027 (23:59 CST)



Accessibility

We are committed to making the application process accessible and can provide case-by-case support and accommodations. If you encounter barriers or need support at any stage, please contact submissions@greo.ca.



Timeline

- June 11, 2026 – Call for applications opens
- October 2, 2026 (23:59 CST) – Expression of Interest deadline
- June 11 – January 22, 2027 – Question period.
- January 29, 2027 (23:59 CST) – Full application deadline
- February 1–26, 2027 – Application review period
- March 1, 2027 – Funding decisions announced
- March 2–31, 2027 – Contracting period
- April 1, 2027 – Projects begin
- March 30, 2029 – Projects completed



Need support? Contact submissions@greo.ca

1. Kenora and Rainy River CIP

1.1 Purpose, Program Objectives, and Intended Impacts

The CIP will strengthen community resilience and reduce gambling-related harms in the Kenora and Rainy River region. It provides funding to local interest holders to support:

- Expansion of community-based treatment and prevention programming.
- Generation of locally driven research.
- Evaluation of evidence-based policies, programs, and practices.

1.2 Program Administration by Greo Evidence Insights

Greo Evidence Insights (Greo) manages the Kenora and Rainy River CIP. Greo is an independent, non-profit organization specializing in research, knowledge mobilization, and evaluation in the health and well-being sectors. Greo has funded gambling-related research and community-based knowledge mobilization for the prevention, education, and mitigation of gambling-related harm since 2000 (formerly as the *Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre (OPGRC)* and *Gambling Research Exchange Ontario*). More information about Greo Evidence Insights [may be found here](#),

Today, Greo administers the Kenora and Rainy River CIP, by:

- Developing and managing the funding call for proposals (process and documentation), with support from a Community Advisory Committee.
- Reviewing Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to determine eligibility.
- Recruiting and facilitating program inputs including independent peer reviewers, Application Review Committee, and Program Advisory Committee.
- Facilitating the funding call adjudication.
- Communicating directly with program applicants and funded project teams.
- Supporting meaningful project implementation and reporting.
- Communicating the impacts of the Kenora and Rainy River CIP to the organization that invested the funds.

Funding is awarded through a transparent review process outlined in Section 7. Review and Adjudication Process. Greo's policies and processes for granting research and community funds are based on those used by the [Canadian Tri-Council](#) (three national government

bodies that fund research in Canada). Funding calls go through an additional step prior to formally launching to meaningfully engage with the priority populations for the call and align as best as possible with the needs and preferences of communities.

1.3 Accessibility Support

Greo is committed to making the application process as accessible as possible. Recognizing that submitting a project application can be challenging, we are prepared to work on a case-by-case basis to support applicants in developing their applications, and to provide accommodations where necessary and feasible. Applicants who require additional support to develop their applications, such as discussion of alternate submission formats, should contact Greo to discuss their needs at submissions@greo.ca. Where applicable, questions and answers about accessibility support may be anonymized and posted to the funding call webpage.

If applicants encounter any barriers during the application process, they are encouraged to reach out to submissions@greo.ca.

2. Funding Call

2.1 Overview

The 2026 call for applications to the Kenora and Rainy River CIP is now open.

Greo will fund projects that focus on strengthening local gambling harms research, prevention, and support in the Kenora and Rainy River region. The funding program consists of a \$600,000 funding envelope divided into two funding streams. We will fund at least one project in each stream. The funding streams include:

- **The Community Stream** to fund the development or enhancement of new or existing gambling support services within the communities.
- **The Research Stream** to generate local evidence and strengthen and expand local research, continuing to support the development of locally driven and locally owned knowledge base.

These Application Guidelines are for the Research Stream. If you are interested in the Community Stream, the [Application Guidelines can be found here](#).

Please note that projects must be completed within a two-year period.

Funding for this Kenora and Rainy River CIP call has been made available by Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG), a Canadian crown (state owned) corporation responsible for conducting and managing gambling in the province of Ontario, Canada. OLG is committed to preventing and addressing gambling harms in communities, as part of their commitment to social responsibility.

Greo is managing the grant competition and awarding of funds but will have no role in the study design; collection, analysis, or interpretation of data; writing any resulting articles; or any decision to submit resulting article(s) for publication. OLG is providing the research funds and has helped shape the research priorities in advance of issuing this call for proposals but will have no influence over the Kenora and Rainy River CIP management, grant recipients, nor any resulting research or publication decisions.

2.2 Funding for the Research Stream

These Application Guidelines are for the Research Stream. Funding for this stream aims to support evidence generation related to gambling harm reduction in the Kenora and Rainy River region and to build-upon and expand local research infrastructure. This stream focuses

on building a locally owned knowledge base through research initiatives that reflect community priorities.

Research Stream proposals should include:

- ✓ Meaningful involvement or consideration of diverse perspectives of the local Kenora or Rainy River region (such as people with lived experience, those that may be disproportionately affected by gambling-related harms, etc.).
- ✓ Demonstration of a proposed research initiative that will directly or indirectly inform efforts to address gambling-related harm in the Kenora or Rainy River region.
- ✓ Methods to support the spread of project outcomes and enable translation/uptake beyond the scope of the research initiative.

Research proposals must focus on gambling harm-related topics that are relevant to the Kenora and Rainy River region and must generate new evidence. Applicants who partner with Indigenous student researchers at Lakehead or other regional academic institutions will be prioritized.

2.2.1 Grant Amount

The Kenora and Rainy River CIP consists of a \$600,000 funding envelope divided into two funding streams funding at least one project in each stream. Research Stream projects can be funded up to \$200,000. Proposed project budgets are to be inclusive of all expenses, direct and indirect, and all applicable taxes. Applicant funding requests should be proportionate to the requirements of the proposed research project.

Individuals that have research funding from another source are eligible to apply for supplementary funding to support the same research project.

2.2.2 Funding Term

For projects within this funding stream, the project term is 24 months. It is important that proposed projects can be completed within this timeframe. Unless otherwise indicated, projects will start on April 1, 2027, and must be completed no later than March 30, 2029.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for grants in the Research Stream, the principal applicant or co-principal applicant must:

- ✓ Be a researcher affiliated with an academic institution or organization in Ontario (e.g., PhD candidate, Post Doctoral Fellow / Scholar, University Professor, etc.). Granted funds must flow to an academic institution in Ontario.
- ✓ Have demonstrated relationships in the Kenora and Rainy River region (e.g., previously or currently living in the region, previously or currently working in the region, personal relationships with those in the region, etc.).

In addition to the above, project team members can also include:

- ✓ Researchers inside or outside of the Kenora and Rainy River region.
- ✓ Individuals not associated with an academic institution (e.g. independent researcher, person with practice-based expertise and/or lived / living experience and / or affected others).

An individual may be listed as a project team member on no more than two applications in total across the Research and Community Streams; however, they may act as the principal applicant for only one of those applications.

Application teams may not include organizations or members from the commercial gambling industry. The commercial gambling industry is defined as: for-profit, private companies or corporations that profit directly from gambling. It does not include regulators, or governmental bodies that receive revenue from gambling proceeds.

Application teams may not include organizations or people with ineligible interests. See Section 5.4 for more information

3.2 Eligible Applications

To be eligible for grants in the Research Stream, applications must propose projects that are:

- ✓ Based in Kenora or the Rainy River region.
- ✓ Generate evidence around gambling harm prevention, education, and / or support.
- ✓ Informed by evidence, which can include community-engaged research with those who have lived and living experience and / or professional experience.

- ✓ Suitable for the funding stream, as described in Section 2.2.
- ✓ Submitted in English.

If you have any questions about whether your application meets these criteria, please contact submissions@greo.ca with the subject line: “Eligibility: Kenora and Rainy River CIP” by January 22, 2027. For the benefit of all applicants, questions about eligibility will be anonymized and posted with answers to the funding call webpage on our website.

4. Conditions

4.1 Project Deliverables

Over the course of their funding term, each funded project team will submit:

1. Interim Report at the end of month 12
2. Final Report at the end of month 24

1. The Interim Report (month 12) will allow the funded project team to provide an update on the project implementation and/or outcomes to date. The Interim Report will include:

- Project background, with a discussion of project purpose and objectives
- Project methods
- Pre-registration link (if applicable)
- Progress on project deliverables
- Explanation for significant deviations from the proposed project (if applicable)
- Early findings (if available)

2. The Final Report (month 24) should be organized as follows:

- Executive summary, containing a condensed version of the full report
- Project background, with a discussion of project purpose and objectives
- Project methods and/or project implementation approach
- Project findings (qualitative and/or quantitative)
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Project assets appended, including things like discussion guides, surveys, interview guides, presentations, education toolkits, etc.

Greo will manage questions or requests for support from funded projects throughout the project term. Reports and relevant project assets will be published by Greo following project completion. Copyright for this report remains with the author(s). A Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-ND will be applied.

Authors are encouraged to submit a separate article to an academic journal. All project outputs should acknowledge Greo Evidence Insights for awarding the grant and Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation for providing funds.

4.2 Resulting Data

In the spirit of open science, project teams are welcome to contribute data collected during their funded projects to a publicly available data repository such as the [Open Science Forum](#) or the [Greo Data Repository](#). The data and metadata would then be made available for review and secondary analysis.

However, there is no requirement for funded project teams to make available the data collected as part of their project. This funding will honour Indigenous Data Sovereignty—the ability for Indigenous Peoples to participate, steward, and control data that are created with or about themselves.

4.2.1 Pre-Registration

Applicants should include a plan to pre-register information about their project in an open, online registry. If pre-registration of the project is not appropriate or feasible, please explain why it is not.

4.3 Additional Considerations for Applicants

Culturally sensitive data collection practices should also be planned for and outlined within applicant submissions. During the contracting period, the project team may be asked to identify how they will be attending ethical and cultural considerations in alignment with their projects and interactions in communities.

4.3.1 Culturally sensitive data collection

Culturally sensitive and equity-aware processes should be embedded throughout the project. Data collection processes should be guided by culturally sensitive, equity-aware, and, if relevant, trauma-informed principles, ensuring participants from diverse backgrounds are treated with respect, dignity, and understanding throughout their engagement in the study. For example:

- Translating guided interviews or questionnaires into multiple languages to ensure accessibility for a broader audience.

- Providing multiple modes of participating (telephone, paper, online for surveys; focus groups with in-person or online options, etc.), to reduce potential barriers and increase accessibility to people of different sociodemographic and cultural backgrounds.

5. How to Apply

5.1 Expression of Interest (EOI)

Only applicants who submit an EOI by the deadline above will be included in this funding call. To express your interest in this funding call, please:

- ✓ Complete and submit the online [Expression of Interest form](#).

Please note that we use EOIs to assemble appropriate Application Review Committees. Once EOIs have been received, Greo will review each to ensure applicants meet the eligibility criteria (see Section 3). All applicant teams who submitted EOIs and meet the eligibility criteria will advance to the next stage in the application process.

EOI's submitted up to and including October 2, 2026, will be reviewed by the Greo team for eligibility and completeness, and applicants will have the opportunity to make any necessary changes ahead of the full application deadline.

Greo staff are available to support applicants in the development of EOIs and applications as needed.

5.2 Question Period

Greo will receive questions from applicants about the application process on an ongoing basis from June 11, 2026 – January 22, 2027. Questions can be submitted via email to submissions@greo.ca.

If applicants prefer to discuss their questions via phone or video conference, they may reach out via email to schedule a meeting with Greo.

All questions and answers will be anonymized, consolidated, and posted to the funding call webpage bi-weekly on Tuesdays, until the close of the question period

5.3 Full Application

To apply, please:

- ✓ Compile the project team's resumés or curricula vitae in one document (titled Appendix A).
- ✓ Complete the online [Research Stream Application form](#).

- ✓ Submit all documents via the online submission form by 23:59 (CST) on January 29, 2027.

5.3.1 Research Stream Application Form

- Complete the online [Research Stream Application form](#).
- For details related to eligible and ineligible expenses, see [Kenora and Rainy River CIP Eligible Expense Guidelines](#).

5.3.2 Appendix A: CV or Resumé for Each Project Team Member

Prepare an Appendix A document including the most current version of each project team members' resumé or curricula vitae.

5.3.3 Application Submission

Submit your completed application documents via the online application form by 23:59 CST on January 29, 2027.

5.4 Declaration of Interest

In both the Expression of Interest (EOI) and the Full Application, applicants will be asked to complete a Declaration of Interest.

The following interests make a **person or organization ineligible** to receive a Research Stream Grant:

- In the last three years, a person or organization named on this project worked directly for the commercial gambling industry^{1,2}

¹ For the purpose of this Declaration of Interests, the commercial gambling industry is defined as: for-profit, private companies or corporations that profit directly from gambling. It does not include regulators, or governmental bodies that receive revenue from gambling proceeds. It also does not preclude people who have worked as front-line staff for a gambling operator from applying.

² Applicants with special circumstances who are deemed ineligible based on their response to this question may submit a written request for reconsideration. Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Greo team.

- Any person or organization named on this project has investments³ (valued at more than \$10,000 overall) in, or commercial business interests associated with, the commercial gambling industry^{1,2}. This includes, but is not limited to, stocks, bonds, commercial business interests such as partnerships, board memberships, etc.
- In the last three years, a person or organization named on this project has provided expert opinion as part of a regulatory, legislative, or judicial process on behalf of the commercial gambling industry^{1,2}
- In the last three years, a person or organization named on this project received compensation, financial support, funding or other sorts of gifts directly from the commercial gambling industry^{1,2} to consult, advise, conduct research, or provide any other service

Other interests in the Declaration of Interest form do not make individuals or organizations ineligible to receive a grant; however, these interests must be declared across project application and reporting documents and will be scored based on the Application Assessment Rubric (see Section 6). If you have any questions about Declaration of Interest process, please reach out to submissions@greo.ca.

³ This excludes mutual funds, pension funds, or similar investments that are broadly diversified and on which you exercise no control.

6. Application Assessment Rubric

SECTION CRITERIA	SCORING CRITERIA
Project Purpose (10%) Clearly state the purpose of the proposed research and the specific research questions that will be addressed.	- Degree to which the project purpose and goals are clearly defined. - Degree to which the purpose and goals demonstrate the aim of directly or indirectly supporting gambling harm prevention, education, and/or treatment in the Kenora or Rainy River region.
Evidence Supports and Significance (15%) Briefly review the evidence related to your submission and describe how the proposed research will fill information gaps or address a community need. Describe the ways in which the proposed research will make an important contribution or add value to the gambling harm reduction efforts in the Kenora and Rainy River region (and potentially beyond).	- Degree to which the review describes how the proposed research will fill information gaps or address community needs. - Degree to which the proposed research is likely to make an important contribution to the gambling landscape in the Kenora and Rainy River region (and potentially beyond) by either directly or indirectly reducing the harms associated with gambling.
Design and Methodology (20%) Describe in detail the proposed project design and methods (qualitative and/or quantitative) that will be used to address the purpose and answer the research questions proposed. This includes, but is not limited to: <i>Key research activities</i> <i>Who the research will support (target population or topic) and why</i> <i>How participant recruitment will be accomplished</i> <i>How data will be collected</i> <i>Appropriateness of the pre-registration plan (or explanation)</i>	- Degree to which key activities are clearly described and align with the project goals. - Degree to which the target population(s) or topic(s) is clearly defined. Rationale for the specific population(s) or topic(s) is justifiable and clearly explained. - Degree to which the proposed methods will address the purpose of the research and answer the research questions.

SECTION CRITERIA	SCORING CRITERIA
<i>Involvement of lived experience</i> <i>Any ethical considerations</i>	
Analytical Strategy (15%) Describe the analytical strategy to be conducted including how the proposed analysis will address the purpose of the proposed research, and specifically how each of the research questions will be answered.	Degree to which the analytical strategy addresses the purpose of the proposed research questions.
Team Qualifications and Infrastructure (10%) Clearly state the relevant expertise and qualifications of the team members involved, including prior work on similar projects/through similar partnerships, if applicable. Clearly describe the expertise, infrastructure, existing relationships, etc. of the organizations involved in the project. For projects that have a primary applicant from outside of the Kenora and Rainy River region, please clearly describe pre-existing relationships in the Kenora and Rainy River region.	- Degree to which the team's expertise is relevant and sufficient to conduct the project. - Degree to which the project team will have sufficient access to their target population(s) to carry out the project. - Degree to which the primary applicant has demonstrated relationships with the Kenora and Rainy River region.
Timeline and Budget (10%) Briefly describe a breakdown of project deliverables and timeline in the Application Form. See the Eligible Expense Guidelines for information on eligible and ineligible expenses when completing the budget. Note: If planning to publish in a peer reviewed publication, applicants are required	- Degree to which the timeline of activities and deliverables are defined. - Degree to which the project appears feasible within the timeline. - Degree to which budget breakdown logically reflects the proposed project activities.

SECTION CRITERIA	SCORING CRITERIA
to include open access fees in their budget submission.	
Knowledge Sharing Plan (15%) Briefly describe the knowledge sharing plan. Please clearly describe how you will share your research insights and results with key interest holders: • <i>Identify and describe the key audiences who might benefit from your project's learnings (community members, practitioners, etc.,).</i> • <i>Specify the formats that will be used to share the project results (e.g., reports, workshops, presentations, community meetings, digital content).</i> • <i>Any other knowledge sharing considerations your project or organization will use.</i>	• Degree to which the proposal has demonstrated sufficient consideration of knowledge sharing.
Team Conflicts of Interest (5%)	• Degree to which the research team includes members with <i>Other Interests</i> (see Section 5.4). For this assessment, scoring should be made as follows: 10 represents no or minimal. <i>Other Interests</i> reported among the application team and 0 represents a greater potential for conflict from <i>Other Interests</i>.

7. Review and Adjudication Process

7.1 Application Review

Each application will be reviewed by an Application Review Committee comprised of up to three external reviewers. Once application reviews are complete, an Adjudication Committee will identify which applications will be funded, based on reviewer scores and qualitative feedback. For an overview of this process, see the visual in Section 7.5

7.2 Review Committee

Every effort is made to ensure the Application Review Committee includes reviewers whose expertise aligns with the proposal, with prioritized inclusion of representatives from the focal population. Additional effort is made to ensure a diversity of relevant perspectives (i.e., one person with lived and/or living experience, one person with subject-matter expertise, and one person with practice).

7.3 Adjudication Committee

The Adjudication Committee will be chaired by Greo and will be comprised of a up to three external members. This Committee is responsible for looking at the feedback and comments of the review committee and executing the decisions of the Application Review Committee.

Text-based comments from the reviewers will be shared with all applicants (both successful and unsuccessful), but not numeric scores.

7.4 Declaration of Interest

Prior to involvement in the Application Review Committee or Adjudication Committee, individuals are required to complete a Declaration of Interest (DOI) form. DOI's will be screened by Greo for eligibility, in alignment with the criteria outlined in the Application Guidelines (see section 5.4). Additionally, a reviewer cannot participate in the review of, or funding decisions related to applications submitted by:

- A person with whom they have co-authored or shared a grant in the past three years.
- A person with whom they have a close personal/professional relationship.
- An organization they have worked for in the past.
- A student they are supervising or have supervised.
- A person who has supervised them.

7.5 Kenora and Rainy River Community Investment Program: Review and Adjudication Process

