



# ONTARIO-FOCUSED RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR PREVENTING AND REDUCING GAMBLING HARMS APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Funding Call: Summer 2023 (July – August)

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# 1. ABOUT THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Greo Evidence Insights is seeking applications for novel research projects that will address gaps in the existing evidence base and generate unique insights for supporting the prevention and minimization of gambling harms.

There is **\$100,000** CAD available over a one-year term. Up to two research projects will be funded, valued at up to \$50,000 CAD each depending on the requested budgets and decisions of the peer review and adjudication committee (see Section 4).

The purpose of this opportunity is to fund and mobilize research projects that target gambling harm prevention/reduction priorities, address gaps in the existing evidence base, and generate unique insights for supporting the prevention and minimization of gambling harms. Funds for this project are provided by the Social Responsibility arm of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG; see Section 2, About the Funds Used to Support this Research Program).

## 1.1 Priority Focus Areas

This call for applications aims to fund research that will have strong practical implications for gambling harm prevention and reduction within the Ontario context. Priority focus areas for applications are as follows:

- Programming aimed at preventing and / or reducing harm among those who gamble at higher risk (e.g., programming facilitated by a state monopoly/Crown corporation).
- Tools / interventions aimed at encouraging those who gamble to do so in ways that are associated with lower levels of risk.
- Gambling harms by geography / region.
- Assessment of best practices for gambling harm prevention/reduction interventions in land-based gambling.

## 1.2 Eligibility

### 1.2.1 The following groups are eligible to apply:

- Researchers at non-profit organizations
- Researchers at academic institutions

- Other private or public sector researchers

The principal applicant(s) must be based in the province of Ontario (see [Greo's General Funding Policies](#)).

### 1. 2. 2 The projects must:

- Be based in Ontario.
- Be relevant to preventing or reducing the harms from gambling.
- Demonstrate the potential for impact.
- Build on or use existing evidence.

**1. 2. 3 Researchers and academic institutions** based in Ontario may partner with organizations located outside of Ontario. However, the principal applicant(s) must be based in Ontario and funding must flow to an Ontario institution, organization, or business.

**1. 2. 4 Conflicts of interest<sup>1</sup>**. Each member of the project team is required to complete a Conflicts of Interest (COI) declaration (see Section 3. 2. 8). Applications that include project team members with *Significant COIs* are **ineligible to receive funding**.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, the following represent *Significant COIs*:

- if you are a current or former employee of OLG, or a current or former Board member of OLG.
- if you have been an employee, contractor, partner, or principal working with the gambling industry<sup>2</sup> in the last 5 years.
- if you have investments<sup>3</sup> in (valued at more than \$10,000 overall) or commercial business interests associated with the gambling industry. This includes, but is not limited to stocks, bonds, commercial business interests such as partnerships, board memberships, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Elements of this section are drawn from the World Health Organization's "Declaration of Interests for WHO Experts"

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this conflicts of interest declaration, the gambling industry is defined as for profit, private companies or corporations that profit directly from gambling. It does not include state owned-monopolies, regulators, or governmental bodies that receive revenue from the proceeds of gambling.

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

- if you have intellectual property rights that may be enhanced or diminished by the outcome of the proposed project.
- if you have provided expert opinion as part of a regulatory, legislative, or judicial process on behalf of the gambling industry in the last 5 years.
- if you or your research unit or organization has received compensation, financial support, or research funding or other sorts of gifts or compensation directly from the gambling industry to consult, advise, conduct research, or provide any other service in the last 5 years.

If you have any questions about the eligibility criteria outlined above or are unsure whether your application meets these criteria, please contact us at [submissions@greo.ca](mailto:submissions@greo.ca) with the subject line “**Eligibility: Ontario-Focused Gambling Harms Research**” by July 21, 2023.

## 1.3 Amount and Term

### 1.3.1 Award amount

Applicants can request a maximum of up to \$50,000 for research projects (such as pilot studies or short surveys), including all expenses, direct and indirect, and all applicable taxes, for projects up to a one-year term. Applicant funding requests must be proportionate to the requirements of the project proposed.

### 1.3.2 Award term and application schedule

The term of the project is one year. It is important that projects can be completed within this timeframe. Unless otherwise indicated, projects will start on October 1, 2023, and must be completed no later than September 30, 2024.

#### Schedule

July 6, 2023	Call for applications opens
July 21, 2023	Expression of Interest (EOI) deadline (23:59 EST)
August 11, 2023	Application submission deadline (23:59 EST)
August 31, 2023	Funding notifications

October 1, 2023

Project start date

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September 30, 2024

Mandatory project completion date

## 1. 4 Conditions

### 1. 4. 1 Deliverables

Funded teams will be required to submit a project status update, a final report, and provide a one-hour presentation of the project and findings (e.g., in person or in a webinar) at the end of the project.

A project status update should be provided at the midway point of the project timeline. The purpose of the project status update is for the funded project team to provide an update on the project, and to propose any adjustments that may be required to deliver the project. The project status update should provide details related to the following:

- Project progress to date in relation to proposed objectives.
- Any project delays or anticipated barriers to completion.
- Any proposed changes for consideration by the Adjudication Committee<sup>4</sup>, such as changes to the methodology or proposed analyses, changes to the timeline, or any other changes to the research project approach.

The final report should generally include the following:

- Summary abstract
- Background including the introduction, purpose of the research, specific question/ problems the research addresses
- Methods including data collection procedures and data analysis plan
- Results describing the findings, including figures and tables where relevant
- Discussion outlining the key results

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<sup>4</sup> The Adjudication Committee will review any proposed changes and communicate approvals with the project team.

- Implications explaining the importance of the findings within the Ontario context and how OLG can use the research to improve their gambling harm prevention/reduction strategies

Reports will be published on Greo's website in our Evidence Centre digital library, 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. Such publications should be made open access and any anticipated open access fees should be included in the project budget.

#### **1. 4. 2 Resulting Data**

If data are collected, and appropriate permissions granted, data should be deposited in a publicly available data repository such as the [Open Science Forum](#) or the [Greo data repository](#) within one year of project completion. In the spirit of open science, the data and metadata will be made available for review and secondary analysis.

## **2. ABOUT THE FUNDS USED TO SUPPORT THIS RESEARCH PROGRAM**

Funds for this project are provided by the Social Responsibility arm of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG). OLG is a Crown corporation owned by the Government of Ontario, Canada. In an effort to continually improve their gambling harm prevention/reduction strategies, OLG occasionally makes available funding for research to generate evidence in priority areas that can be used to inform these strategies. OLG provided input into the priority areas used to develop this request for applications. OLG will have no role in the determining the grant recipients, no influence over the research conducted by the successful applicants, and no influence over the publication or dissemination of the findings emerging from the research.

Greo Evidence Insights, formerly known as the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre (OPGRC) and Gambling Research Exchange Ontario, has funded gambling-related research and community-based knowledge mobilization since 2000.

Greo will administer this Research Program, by:

- Developing and managing the funding call for proposals (process and documentation).
- Reviewing Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to determine organizational eligibility.
- Recruiting peer reviewers and facilitating the peer review process.
- Facilitating the program adjudication.
- Communicating directly with program applicants and funded project teams.
- Ensuring meaningful project implementation and reporting.

Funding will be awarded through a transparent review 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).

For more information about Greo Evidence Insights, please visit our [website](#).

## 3. HOW TO APPLY

### 3.1 Expression of Interest (EOI)

Please send an email with the subject line “**EOI: Ontario-Focused Gambling Harms Research**” to [submissions@greo.ca](mailto:submissions@greo.ca) by July 21, 2023 at 23:59 (EST) that indicates:

- Primary contact information [i.e., principal applicant(s)].
- Name and address of the organization that, if successful, funds will be directed to.
- Description of the project team (names, roles, and relevant expertise).
- A statement indicating that no member of the project team has any significant conflicts of interest (as defined in Section 1.2.4).
- Suggestions for reviewers (optional). In Section 4 we describe in detail the peer review and adjudication process including the criteria used to determine the eligibility of peer reviewers. If you have suggestions for subject experts you believe will meet these inclusion criteria please provide their name(s) and affiliations. Please note that, though suggestions are appreciated and will benefit the peer review process, making a suggestion in no way guarantees they will be selected for the review committee or that they will review specific applications.

Please note that we use EOIs to assemble an appropriate peer review committee. Therefore, **applicants who wish to be considered for a grant must submit an EOI by the deadline above.**

Once EOIs have been received, Greo will review each to ensure it meets the eligibility criteria (see Section 1.2). No quality assessment will be done at this stage. Provided an EOI meets eligibility criteria, applicants will move on to the full proposal stage.

### 3.2 Full Application

The full application package should be sent as one continuous PDF email attachment to [submissions@greo.ca](mailto:submissions@greo.ca) by August 11, 2023 at 23:59 (EST). The email subject line should be “**APPLICATION: Ontario-Focused Gambling Harms Research**”.

Please send questions and comments to [submissions@greo.ca](mailto:submissions@greo.ca).



Please ensure the application includes the following headings and sub-headings:

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TITLE PAGE

ABSTRACT (MAXIMUM 250 WORDS)

RESEARCH PROPOSAL (2500 WORDS MAXIMUM, NOT INCLUDING REFERENCES, ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS, OR THE BUDGET AND TIMELINE)

- Literature review, rationale, and significance
- Methods
- Analytical strategy

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

BUDGET AND TIMELINE

TEAM CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

TEAM MEMBERS CVS OR RESUMÉS

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

APPENDICES (IF APPLICABLE)

### **3. 2. 1 Title page**

The title page provides basic information about the principal applicant's organization and all affiliated organizations for this project.

- Title of the research project
- Primary contact information [i.e., principal investigator(s)].
- Name and address of the organization that, if successful, funds will be directed to.

- Name of members of the research team
  - Contact information.
  - Organizational/institutional affiliations.
- Start and end date of the research project.
- Total budget amount requested.
- A statement indicating that no member of the research team has any significant conflicts of interest (as defined in Section 1. 2. 4)
- We ask for a signature from the principal investigator. Upon signing this form, you acknowledge that the information you have provided us with is true and correct.

### **3. 2. 2 Abstract (maximum 250 words)**

Please provide a summary abstract.

### **3. 2. 3 Research proposal (maximum 2500 words)**

The proposal must not exceed 2500 words (excluding references, appendices, and other components of the application, such as the title page, abstract, ethical considerations, etc.). The proposal section should include:

- *Literature review, rationale, and significance.* Briefly summarize the scientific literature and describe the information gaps. Present the purpose of the research and/ or relevant research questions and how the proposed research will fill relevant information gaps.
- *Methods.* Describe in as much detail as possible the proposed methods that will be used to address the purpose of the research or answer research questions. This includes, but is not limited to, how participant recruitment will be accomplished, how data will be collected, and appropriateness of a preregistration plan. Note ethical consideration can be described in Section 3. 2. 4.

- *Analytical strategy.* Describe the analytical strategy to be used including how the proposed analysis will address the purpose of the proposed research and how the analysis will answer research questions.

### **3. 2. 4 Ethical considerations (maximum 1 page)**

Describe the ethical considerations that must be considered in the proposed research and how will they be dealt with by the research team. If ethics approval is not considered necessary, please provide an explanation why it is not. Note that when required, funding is conditional upon ethics approval being granted.

### **3. 2. 5 Budget and timeline**

Complete the downloadable [budget summary and timeline template](#). Allowable budget expense categories include personnel, equipment, supplies, and travel expenses (for guidance see [Creo's Eligible Expenses Guidelines](#)). Complete the timeline chart with key milestones and deliverables (found in the same Excel workbook).

### **3. 2. 6 Team capacity and infrastructure (maximum 1 page)**

Describe the capacity of the team to complete the work proposed as well as how the applicants' institution(s) or organization(s) are appropriate and will support the research.

### **3. 2. 7 CV or resumé of each research team member**

Submit the most current version of each research team member's curriculum vitae or resumé.

### 3. 2. 8 Conflicts of Interest declaration

For **each member of the research team**, please include a Conflict of Interest declaration referring specifically to each of the potential conflicts listed in section 1. 2. 4.

### 3. 2. 9 Appendices (if applicable)

Additional information may be submitted to support the application. Appendices are limited to a maximum of five (5) pages. Please combine any appendices with the rest of the application into a single PDF.

## 4. PEER REVIEW PROCESS AND ADJUDICATION PROCESS

A peer review committee will assess the quality of the research project proposals and potential for impact. In constructing the committee every effort will be made to ensure it includes a diversity of perspectives and expertise. Specifically, attempts will be made to ensure the research areas of the peer review committee members align with the funding focus areas and the research areas of the applicants' proposals. Though there will be a preference for peer reviewers from Canada, we may also seek peer reviewers from the international community. The steps in the peer review process are outlined below:

1. All potential peer reviewers will be contacted by Greo and screened for COIs (see Section 1. 2. 4). Those who have significant conflicts of interest will be excluded. In addition, potential peer reviewers will be asked to declare any prior relationships they have with grant applicants. Reviewers will not participate in the review of, or funding decisions for, applications submitted by:
  - a. A student they are supervising or have supervised;
  - b. A person who has supervised them;
  - c. A person with whom they have co-authored or shared a grant in the past three years;
  - d. A person with whom they have had long-standing scientific differences; or

- e. A person with whom they have a close personal friendship.

Provided potential reviewers meet the screening criteria described above, they will be invited to review applications. This process will continue until we have a minimum of three reviewers that can review each application. All peer reviewers will be offered honorariums for their efforts.

When the full application packages are received, Greo will send the relevant application materials and review template to peer reviewers to document their review feedback. Each reviewer will be provided with the evaluation rubric available in Section 5 (below) and will be asked to conduct their review by assigning a score to each section and by providing written comments.

2. After each reviewer has independently reviewed each application, an internal Greo adjudication committee will aggregate the reviews and convene a meeting to review and discuss the evaluations. All applications will be rank ordered by score. The adjudication committee chair will guide the group to a consensus decision regarding which applications to fund, based on scores and written comments. During this process the scores, comments, and group discussion will be considered when deciding which applicants will receive the awards.
3. Once the adjudication committee has determined the successful applicants, Greo will administer and manage the grants. Text-based comments from the reviewers will be shared with all applicants (both successful and unsuccessful), but not numeric scores.

## 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

APPLICATION SECTION	WEIGHT	SCORING CRITERIA
<b>Research proposal</b>	45%	
Literature review, rationale and significance	10%	Degree to which this section clearly describes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- information gaps;</li> <li>- the purpose of the research and/or research question(s); and</li> <li>- how the proposed project will fill those gaps.</li> </ul>
Methods	20%	Degree to which the proposed methods will adequately address the purpose of the research and answer the research question(s).
Analytical strategy	15%	Degree to which the analytical strategy will adequately address the purpose of the proposed research and answers the research question(s).
<b>Potential impact</b>	20%	Degree to which the proposed research will improve our understanding of the priority topic areas, to increase the effectiveness of prevention or harm reduction and reduce gambling harms in Ontario.
<b>Ethical considerations</b>	5%	Degree to which ethical considerations are considered and taken into account by the applicants.
<b>Budget and timeline</b>	20%	
Budget	10%	Degree to which the budget breakdown logically reflects proposed project work.
Timeline	10%	Degree to which the project appears feasible within the timeline.
<b>Team capacity and infrastructure</b>	10%	
Team capacity	5%	Degree to which the research team is experienced and capable of carrying out the proposed project.
Infrastructure	5%	Degree to which the applicants' institution(s) or organization(s) are appropriate and will support the research.