

Community Scholar Program



LHIV Innovation Team Purpose - Transforming the way chronic HIV care is delivered in Canada

With improvements in treatment and acute care, persons living with HIV are living longer and enjoying better quality of life. These advances have brought new challenges: diseases of aging such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer are now common among people living with HIV. HIV has evolved from an acute to a chronic condition, characterized by multiple co-morbidities. The way that HIV care has been organized and delivered in Canada no longer meets the needs of this population. Management of this disease has led to substantive care gaps in the continuum of care leaving the majority of people with HIV without comprehensive care, despite our universal healthcare system.

LHIV Innovation Team Goal and Objectives

The goal of the Living with HIV (LHIV) Innovation Team is to conduct the foundational work required to shift the majority of HIV care to the primary healthcare community, while maintaining essential ties to specialist HIV care.

Our specific objectives are to:

1. Create a better understanding of the health, healthcare utilization, and quality of care of persons living with HIV;
2. Implement an integrated care model for HIV care delivery;
3. Examine patients' perspectives of a shift to a primary healthcare approach for HIV care; and
4. Build – and support with data and infrastructure – the Living with HIV (LHIV) Innovation Team: a new, highly skilled, interdisciplinary HIV primary healthcare team including researchers in primary and HIV care delivery, clinicians, members of the HIV community, and policymakers.
5. Ensure representation across the chronic HIV communities.

Community Scholar Program Goal and Objectives

The goal of the Community Scholar program is to conduct all research in accordance with GIPA/MIPA principals, as outlined in the overall goals and objectives as outlined above.

Grounded in the greater involvement and meaningful engagement of people living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA/MIPA) principles, the specific objectives of the community scholar program are to:

1. Ensure the meaningful engagement and participation of persons with lived experience in the work of the LHIV Innovation Team.
2. Ensure that the persons with lived experience are adequately compensated such that they are able to devote the time and energy needed to actively participate in the research projects as part of the LHIV Innovation Team.

Qualifications

We are looking for individuals to join our team as part of the community scholar program who:

1. Are living with HIV
2. Can provide a multi-faceted understanding of the health care system from the perspective of their lived experience
3. Have experience working with community organizations key to improving the health of persons living with HIV/AIDS
4. Have some experience and understanding of how research can be used to improve access to health care for persons with lived experience, and are willing to learn more about research as a community scholar.
5. Are willing to be part of the LHIV Innovation Team to help guide our research so that it has relevance to the community

Commitment

Community members wishing to be part of the community scholar program will agree to:

1. Commit to providing guidance to the LHIV Innovation Team in accordance with the GIPA/MIPA principles (http://www.ontarioaidsnetwork.on.ca/upload_image/living_serving3_oct2011.pdf)
2. Attend two in-person and two teleconference meetings each year (minimum requirement).
3. Commit to providing timely input and feedback on written documents (i.e. grant proposals, manuscripts, ethical considerations and consent processes) to ensure that the perspective of the persons with lived experience is reflected in the team's written work.
4. Agree to submit bi-annual invoices and meet the financial requirements of the funder (i.e. following the expense guidelines for all team members and provide required receipts).
5. Agree to actively participate in the development and implementation of knowledge dissemination strategies.
6. Agree to participate for two years. Following the two-year commitment, the scholars can reapply for an additional term(s).

Application Process

Potential community scholars will be identified by members of the LHIV Innovation Team who will submit their name to the LHIV Innovation Team Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will review the applications and make the decisions based on the fit of the applicant with the program and on available funds.

Funding

The LHIV Innovation team commits to paying for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, provided the expenses are pre-approved. In addition, the Team agrees to provide an annual honorarium of \$2,000, paid bi-annually (April and October each year), providing the requirements outlined above have been met.

Dispute Resolution

Any disputes arising from the community scholar program, including suggestions on how to make the program more robust and improving our ability to meet the goals stated above, will be sent to the LHIV Innovation Team's Executive Committee.