



Request for Applications (RFA)

Supporting Networks to Translate and Implement Evidence-Based Care

About Praxis

Praxis Spinal Cord Institute is a Canadian-based not-for-profit organization that leads global collaboration in spinal cord injury (SCI) research, innovation and care. We accelerate the translation of discoveries and best practices into improved treatments for people with SCI. Our strategic objectives include supporting work that leads to promising neurorestorative treatments and evidence-based care that are identified as priorities by Canadians living with SCI.

Background

Significant effort and funding from Praxis and other organizations have been invested in the development of evidence-based clinical resources and toolkits to promote person-centred, optimal and equitable care. To encourage the translation of these evidence-based resources, Praxis has also funded network activities to facilitate implementation of best practices at the local/regional/provincial level.

Examples of network activities include various collaborations to promote quality care and to advance neurorestorative treatments (e.g. activity-based therapy, neuromodulation) that aim to restore an individual's function after SCI (neurological, physical, emotional) and reduce the impact of secondary complications (e.g. pressure injuries). There are also collaborations led by the SCI communities to implement best practices (e.g. physical activity) with peer coaching and self-management as individuals transition and live in the community.

Description of the RFA

The objective of this RFA is to further promote implementation and advance adoption of evidence-based care in a way that is meaningful to the SCI community and of local relevance. The goal of the RFA is to build strong networks that engage various SCI partners and relevant organizations to facilitate and champion practice and policy changes to optimize the delivery of care for people with SCI in Canada.

Applicants are invited to submit proposals that align to the RFA's objective and goal for advancing translation and the implementation of evidence-based care. The following are examples of activities that will be considered; however, applicants are encouraged to think creatively and to go beyond these examples.

- Initiate or enhance a regional, provincial or national network to facilitate development and adoption of best practices
 - Example: Create a new community of practice for an emerging neurorestorative treatment such as nerve transfers
- Translate and implement care practices based on existing evidence-based SCI resources to address needs prioritized by people with SCI
 - Examples of evidence-based SCI resources include: [Health Standards Organization's Integrated People-Centred SCI Rehabilitation Standards](#), [Can-SCIP](#), [AO Spine-Praxis Acute Guidelines](#), [SCIRE](#), the [SCI Implementation, Evaluation, Quality Care Consortium](#), [Essential Needs Report](#)

Award Amount and Duration

Funded grants will have a term ending no later than March 31, 2026 and with a maximum amount of \$20,000 CAD each. At least three grants are expected to be awarded with the following requirements and subject to peer-review.

- Research must occur in Canada, and it is highly encouraged to engage individuals/partners from equity deserving groups;
- The team must include: researchers, clinicians, persons with lived experience (PLEX) and/or SCI community organizations (may also include industry or other partners as appropriate);
- Applicants are strongly recommended to identify matched funding from other sources or in-kind resources.

Eligibility Criteria

The Nominated Principal Applicant must:

- Be affiliated or be partnered with an institution, either within or outside of Canada, eligible to receive Praxis funds (see “Host Institution” below);
- Have an academic, clinical, or research appointment which allows the applicant to pursue independent projects, including the proposed project;
- Engage in independent research activities for the entire duration of the funding;
- All previous Praxis grant reporting (narrative and financial) are complete with no details outstanding;
- Accept [Praxis’ conditions of award](#); and
- Disclose all real or perceived conflicts of interest.

The Host Institution must:

- Be a [qualified donee](#) registered with Canada Revenue Agency or a eligible [non-qualified donee](#);
- Not be a private, for-profit organization.

All Project Team Members must have the support of their organization to participate in the project.

Award Eligible Expenses

Awards can only be used to support direct project expenses. Praxis has an Administrative Cost Policy which outlines that **no indirect costs** can be covered with Praxis funding. Ineligible expenses include:

- Rent
- Capital expenses (e.g., computers, office equipment, furniture, fixtures, etc.)
- Indirect expenses (overhead, administrative costs)
- Activities that are not part of the project
- Costs that are already otherwise funded

Key Dates

Key Dates	Target Date
RFA Opens	September 23, 2024
Deadline to Apply	November 24, 2024
Review Process	November - December 2024
Notice of Decision	December 2024
Awarded Grants to be Funded	January 2025

Application Instructions

Using the [application form](#), your application must include the following:

1. Application cover
2. Project lay summary (100 words max)
3. Project team composition (members and partners)
4. Proposal (4-pages max)
 - a. **Background:** Describe the clinical, scientific, and/or technical significance of the issue to be addressed in this project, and how the issue is a unique and clearly defined need. Discuss the innovation and originality of the project compared to previous studies. Also discuss how the intended impact of the project aligns with [Praxis' strategic objectives, vision and mission](#).
 - b. **Objectives:** Describe the objectives of the project and considerations for sustainability and scalability of the project.
 - c. **Activities and Knowledge Translation (KT):** Outline the proposed activities and KT plans and explain how they will be executed.
 - d. **Expected Outcomes:** Outline the expected outcomes and how they will be evaluated.
 - e. **Operational Readiness:** Justify the team's qualification and time availability to deliver on the proposed activities and KT plans within the allotted timeframe.
 - f. **Partner Engagement:** Describe how PLEX of SCI and other partners (such as health care providers, researchers, community organizations, Indigenous communities, health authorities, innovators, and policy-makers) are integrated into the project. Examples of integration include research design, committee membership, partnership, project participation, dissemination.
 - g. **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Indigenous Engagement:** Outline the [EDI considerations](#) to be integrated into the project team composition and the project itself. Also identify if there are any Indigenous engagement elements related to the project and if so, provide an overview of the approach and considerations.
5. Table of milestones, deliverables, targets and timelines
6. Budget: Include expenses for the activities and provide justification. If applicable, list other funding sources or in-kind resources for this project.
7. Supporting documents for the Principal Applicant(s) (no page limit)
 - a. **Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** Review the [policy](#) and complete the [disclosure form](#).
 - b. **CV:** You can submit your [Tri-Agency CV](#) or another format.

Formatting and Submission

Please format your application as follows: **Font:** Calibri 11-point; **Spacing:** Single line

Compile your application into a single PDF and submit it to funding@praxisinstitute.org by the deadline. You will receive an acknowledgement of your application within 2 days of submission.

Review Process

For evaluation purposes, a committee will evaluate the application using the criteria below.

- Strategic Alignment and Potential Impact:** Does the project align with [Praxis' strategic objectives, vision and mission](#)? Does this project address a clearly defined need? Will the project's deliverables be meaningful and of value to the SCI community?
- Merit, Feasibility and Evaluation Plan:** Is there evidence of excellence and scientific merit of the project? Are the project's objectives, activities, KT plans realistic given the scope, schedule, and identified resources? Are people-centred care principles integrated in the methodology? Are the outcomes realistic? Is the plan for measuring outcomes appropriate?
- Operational Readiness:** Is the team appropriately trained and capable of executing the project? Is the team prepared and has adequate resources (e.g. appropriate budget, equipment, process/system) to initiate the project right away? Is there matched funding or in-kind resources for the project? Have [EDI](#) and Indigenous engagement been considered for the team and throughout the project?
- Engagement and Sharing of Knowledge:** Is the integration of partners into the project relevant and sufficient? How likely is the KT plan lead to increased awareness and impact?

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the criteria and weightings below, and ranked based on the rating scale.

Weighting

Criterion	Weighting
Strategic Alignment & Potential Impact	15%
Merit, Feasibility & Evaluation Plan	25%
Operational Readiness	20%
Engagement and Sharing of Knowledge	40%

Rating Scale

Threshold	Range	Outcome
Outstanding	4.5 – 4.9	Recommended for funding
Excellent	4.0 – 4.4	
Very Good	3.5 – 3.9	May be funded
Fair	3.0 – 3.4	Not recommended for funding
Not adequate	1.0 – 2.9	

Funding Decision

Upon completion of the review process, the committee will present a recommendation to the Chief Executive Officer for the final funding decision.

Contact Information

Please contact funding@praxisinstitute.org for questions regarding this application for funding.