Request for Proposals: Interim Evaluation of Health Data Research Network Canada

Invitation

Health Data Research Network Canada (HDRN Canada) invites proposals from organizations and/or individuals with demonstrated experience and knowledge of health data and related areas to undertake an interim evaluation of its activities since its launch in April, 2019.

Overview

In 2019, HDRN Canada was awarded funding through a seven-year grant to build and operate the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Canadian Data Platform (CDP). The SPOR CDP, funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and in-kind contributions from partners, is focused on enabling high-quality, innovative, and multi-jurisdictional research that supports health and health equity.

HDRN Canada is a distributed network of organizations and people who come together with common objectives related to data and multi-regional research. Our network includes clinicians, decision-makers, members of the public, and researchers from across Canada. Our members include provincial, territorial, and multi-regional organizations that hold health and health-related data for entire populations.

We are also actively working to better support inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) through data use and supporting Indigenous-led data governance priorities that advance First Nations, Inuit, and Métis data sovereignty.

HDRN Canada is a unique organization that is working to alleviate various challenges with respect to multi-regional research. These challenges include data access, data analysis (including data organization and comparability), data governance, and how to incorporate principles of IDEA and Indigenous Data Sovereignty into everything we do.

For more information about HDRN Canada and its activities please refer to our website at https://www.hdrn.ca/ and strategic plan at https://www.hdrn.ca/en/about/strategic-plan.

Scope of Work

HDRN Canada is seeking an external organization or individual to undertake an interim evaluation of its actions and activities from April 2019 to April 30, 2022. This evaluation is expected to be a formative evaluation that can identify lessons learned from the development of HDRN Canada. The main focus of the evaluation will be to describe the approach and activities led or supported by HDRN Canada across the five goals included in the Strategic Plan. Additional focus areas will include:

- Describing the approach and activities led or supported by HDRN Canada across the outcomes in the SPOR CDP Logic Model (see Appendix).
- Linking outputs/outcomes to HDRN Canada's overall goals and checking alignment with those of the SPOR CDP.
- Evaluation and impact of HDRN Canada activities (may include impact overview/impact typology/case studies/anticipated impacts).
- Understanding how HDRN Canada's distributed nature contributed to impact(s).

- Assessing the relationships, engagement, involvement, and impact of stakeholder groups (e.g., researchers, clinicians, decision-makers, members of the public, Indigenous Groups) in HDRN Canada activities.
- Assessing the value-add of HDRN Canada in the multi-regional health data research field within Canada.
- Identifying the main lessons learned to ensure sustainability of future activities or initiatives.

The evaluation will gather information from activities across HDRN Canada including from all of HDRN Canada's partners, Working Groups, Committees, Teams, Public Advisory Council and Board of Directors, and to engage with relevant external stakeholders from across Canada. The successful applicant would be expected to work collaboratively with HDRN Canada's partners, however, it is not an evaluation of individual partners, other than in their contributions to the overall goals of HDRN Canada.

The evaluation is also expected to speak to stakeholder needs, including findings that are relevant to public partners (e.g., public roles in HDRN Canada), findings that are relevant to HDRN Canada's research community (e.g., research institutes, academic partners, patients, and members of the public) and identify impacts specific to Federal/Provincial/Territorial partners.

Submitted proposals must deliver an evaluation report over a four-month timeframe. There is no fixed approach to the interim evaluation but we will work with the selected applicant to identify the most appropriate approach. The criteria should align with the key HDRN Canada goals in the Strategic Plan. Proposals will be assessed according to the evaluation criteria specified in the requirements section.

Requirements

Proposals must provide the following information (evaluation weight shown in brackets):

1. Develop a tailored evaluation approach (40%). This should include:
    a. Clear linkage between the proposed evaluation framework and the five goals in HDRN Canada's Strategic Plan and the CIHR SPOR Logic Model (see Appendix).
    b. Specify a plan to connect with HDRN Canada and other stakeholders engaged in patient-oriented research activities across Canada.
    c. Identify proposed methods to capture both qualitative and quantitative information.
    d. Identify an approach to synthesize information and provide meaningful insights on the impacts of HDRN Canada and the work it has supported, including developing impact stories from HDRN Canada activities.
2. Demonstrate a strong track record in formative/summative evaluation of health research (30%). This should include:
    a. Demonstrated knowledge and familiarity with HDRN Canada.
    b. Demonstrated understanding of CIHR's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR).

     c. Demonstrated knowledge and familiarity of the Canadian health research and health data landscapes, including previous public reports and recommendations.

     d. Demonstrated experience of program evaluation.

     e. Demonstrate awareness of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility topics.

     f. Demonstrate awareness of Indigenous networks and processes and knowledge of Indigenous-led data governance priorities that advance First Nations, Inuit, and Métis data sovereignty.

     g. Demonstrated inclusion of stakeholder engagement in the evaluation process.

3. Develop an evaluation report that speaks to HDRN Canada and stakeholder needs (20%), which should include:

     a. Findings that are relevant to public partners (e.g., public roles in HDRN Canada).

     b. Findings that are relevant to HDRN Canada's research community (e.g., research institutes, academic partners, patients, and members of the public).

     c. Identify impacts specific to Federal/Provincial/Territorial partners.

     d. Identify opportunities and lessons learned for HDRN Canada

     e. Identify whether there are gaps in the CIHR SPOR Logic Model, particularly if changes are required to the performance indicators to best track and evaluate HDRN Canada performance.

4. Anticipated budget and timeline (10%) for the proposed work:

     a. Identify available capacity to undertake the work.

     b. Identify the anticipated cost of undertaking the evaluation (not to exceed $75,000).

     c. Demonstrate how the evaluation will meet HDRN Canada timelines.

Key Dates

- May 16, 2022 – Request for Proposals opens.
- May 30, 2022 – Questions about the RFP to be submitted to HDRN Canada at info@hdrn.ca.
- TBD depending on interest – HDRN Canada will host a one-hour virtual meeting to review submitted questions and answer any other questions that arise.
- June 10, 2022 – RFP closes.
- June 13, 2022 – Internal triage process begins.
- June 20, 2022 – All RFP applicants will be contacted about decisions by end of day June 20.
- June 27-29, 2022 – Top three selected proposals invited to give a 30-minute presentation to the evaluation review panel (with an extra 30 minutes for questions).
- July 6, 2022 – Successful applicant will be identified.
- August 2, 2022 – Evaluation phase begins.
- November 30, 2022 – Evaluation report to be submitted to HDRN Canada leadership.

How to apply

Proposals should be submitted in English to info@hdrn.ca by June 10, 2022.

Questions about this RFP should be submitted to info@hdrn.ca by May 30, 2022..

Appendix

The five goals in the HDRN Canada Strategic Plan:

- Develop and Improve Services and Supports for Data Access
- Diversify and Harmonize Data, and Support Innovative and Privacy-Sensitive Data Use
- Establish and Strengthen Partnerships and Provide Leadership for Evolving Data Practices
- Strengthen Data Use to Improve Equity, and Support Indigenous-led Data Sovereignty
- Ensure Purposeful and Ongoing Public and Community Involvement

SPOR CDP Logic Model

SPOR Vision: Demonstrably improve health outcomes and enhance patients' health care experience through integration of evidence at all levels in the health care system.		
	Facilitating Pan-Canadian Research	Engaging Patients, Stakeholders & Other SPOR-Funded Entities
Ultimate Outcomes	• Higher quality and frequency of population-based multi-jurisdictional studies are conducted • Position Canada as an international leader in data access and data harmonization practices • Improved health system outcomes through evidence-based practices	
Intermediate Outcomes	• The process of requesting and using data across jurisdictions to inform studies is simplified • Capacity is built for a sustainable platform	• Engagement is deepened and facilitated between the platform and all stakeholders/users
Immediate Outcomes	• Access to multi-jurisdictional data & research facilitated • Systems of standardization/harmonization of data expanded • Support provided for data centres to bring in new administrative, clinical, and social datasets	• Strong partnerships with patients, the public and with Indigenous communities are created
Ultimate Outcomes	• Data Access Support Hub is launched and operationalized • Algorithms and data models are developed, piloted, and disseminated • Harmonized policies and procedures for data access, privacy, ethics and storage are created • Partnerships, governance structure, and national coordination are established	

| Outputs (Ongoing) | Facilitate access to data analytic /data access services for multi-jurisdictional research Facilitate data harmonization/standardization Engage and support other SPOR-funded entities, patients, the public and Indigenous communities Platform management and coordination Evaluate impact with performance metrics and targets Training sessions and webinars to build the capacity of trainees and researchers Develop international relationships to promote collaboration on health research |

Canadian Data Platform Indicator Matrix

Activities

Activity	Indicator	Data Source	Responsibility	Frequency
Engage and support other SPOR-funded entities, patients, the public and Indigenous communities	1.1 # of meetings, webinars, workshops & sub-plenary sessions with each group present	CDP annual reporting documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
	1.2 # of data support requests from other SPOR-funded entities	CDP annual reporting documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
Develop international relationships to promote collaboration on health research	1.3 # of international partnerships/relationships	CDP annual reporting documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
Training sessions & webinars to build the capacity of trainees & researchers	1.4 # and type of training sessions and webinars offered	CDP annual reporting documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
Platform management and coordination	1.5 # of FTEs working on different components of the platform	CDP annual reporting documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual

Outputs

Output	Indicator	Data Source	Responsibility	Frequency
Data Access Support Hub (DASH) is launched and operationalized	2.1 # of visits to the DASH website	CDP annual reporting documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
Algorithms and data models are developed, piloted, and disseminated	2.2 # of algorithms in online DASH inventory	CDP annual reporting	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
	2.3 # of data models in online DASH inventory	CDP annual reporting	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
Harmonized policies and procedures for data access, privacy, ethics and storage are	2.4 Documentation outlining harmonized policies and procedures between data centres	CDP annual reporting documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
	2.5 List of main partnerships	CDP annual reporting	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
Partnerships, governance structure and national coordination are established	2.6 Documentation outlining governance structure, national coordination	CDP annual reporting	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
	2.7 # of individuals per province on working groups for the platform	CDP annual reporting	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual

Immediate Outcomes

Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Responsibility	Frequency
Access to multi-jurisdictional data and research are facilitated	3.1 # of new initiated DASH projects	CDP annual reporting	SPOR Management &	Annual
	3.2 # of active/in-progress DASH projects	CDP annual reporting	SPOR Management &	Annual
Systems of standardization/harmonization of data are expanded	3.3 # of DASH users using inventory of algorithms and common data models	CDP annual reporting documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
Support is provided for data centres to bring in new administrative, clinical, and social	3.4 # of new datasets acquired by each data centre	CDP annual reporting documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
Strong partnerships with patients, the public and with Indigenous communities are created	3.5 # of partners**	CDP annual reporting	SPOR Management &	Annual
	3.6 Indigenous engagement plan	CDP annual reporting	SPOR Management &	Annual
	3.7 Patient partner engagement plan	CDP annual reporting	SPOR Management &	Annual
Strong relationships (e.g., through joint projects) with SPOR and non-SPOR health research	3.8 List of joint projects with SPOR and non- SPOR health research stakeholders	CDP annual reporting documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual

*** Indicator can also be found in the SPOR Initiative-level Performance Measurement Framework*

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Intermediate Outcomes

Outcome	Indicator*	Data Source	Responsibility	Frequency
The process of requesting and using data across jurisdictions to inform studies is simplified	4.1 # of DASH users that answered satisfied/very satisfied to "were you satisfied with the value DASH brought to your research" in user survey.	CDP annual reporting documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
	4.2 # of DASH users that answered satisfied/very satisfied to "how would you rate your overall experience with DASH" in user survey.	CDP annual reporting documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
	4.3 # of DASH users that answered agree/strongly agree to "DASH made navigating multi-jurisdictional research more efficient" in user survey.	CDP documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
	4.4 # of DASH users that answered likely/extremely likely to "how likely are you to recommend DASH to a colleague" in user survey.	CDP documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
	4.5 Sustainability plan (year 5)	CDP documents	SPOR Management &	Annual
	4.6 List of funders and data partners secured	CDP documents	SPOR Management &	Annual
Engagement is deepened and facilitated between the platform and all stakeholders/users	4.7 Impact stories and documentation from the stakeholder engagement working group	CDP documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual

* All within year and cumulative totals will be documented where possible

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Ultimate Outcomes

Outcome	Indicator*	Data Source	Responsibility	Frequency
Higher quality and frequency of population-based multi-jurisdictional studies are conducted	5.1 # of letters of support for DASH projects	CDP annual reporting	SPOR Management &	Annual
	5.2 # of citations that make use of the DASH platform	CDP documents	SPOR Management &	Annual
	5.3 # of DASH users that answered yes to "was the presence of the SPOR Canadian Data Platform and DASH a factor in your consideration of conducting a multi- jurisdictional research project" in user survey.	CDP documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
	5.4 # of DASH projects that are published and completed	CDP documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
Position Canada as an international leader in data access and harmonization practices	5.5 % of invited presentations for international conferences/events	CDP documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual and end-of-grant
	5.6 # of international data centres that have contacted CDP for guidance on data harmonization practices	CDP documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
Improved health system outcomes through evidence-based practices	5.7 % of Canadians who rated the medical care they received over the past 12 months from their regular doctor as very good or excellent	Commonwealth Survey	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
	5.8 Impact stories documenting changes in relevant clinical outcomes by jurisdiction	CDP documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual
	5.9 Canadian mortality and life expectancy rates	PHAC Health Inequalities Data Tool	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual

	5.10 # of DASH projects that are published and completed	CDP documents	SPOR Management & Oversight	Annual