

# **Post-Secondary Counsellor Practitioner Research Grant**

Proposed by  
Post-Secondary Counsellors Chapter Executive  
Canadian Counselling & Psychotherapy Association

October, 2020 (Revised April, 2021)

## **Preamble**

The PSC Chapter recognizes that for post-secondary counsellors who are practitioners-in-the-field, there is a dearth of support for applied research projects conducted in the post-secondary counselling workplace. As of January 8, 2020, 150 CCPA/ACCP members are members of the PSC Chapter. Many of these members are practitioners who work daily in post-secondary counselling in communities across Canada. Although our members work within post-secondary contexts, many of them have no access to research funding opportunities within their institutions or communities. Our members acknowledge the profound value of evidence accruing from work within the post-secondary counselling profession and would benefit from the capacity to realize that value as practitioner-researchers. The Chapter recognizes the importance of this work.

## **Proposal**

This proposal is to establish a small grant fund to promote the value, importance, and results of applied research performed by post-secondary counsellors in the community and/or workplace. These practitioner research initiatives may consist, for example, of small exploratory projects with an evaluation component; pilot proposals with specific post-secondary counselling criteria; online surveys or assessments surveys with outcome measures; a needs assessment study of a particular issue involving a specific demographic population, or other initiatives. Projects ideally suited for this initiative would benefit from a small seed grant of \$500 (\$1000 in exceptional circumstances) which the PSC Chapter would award for a one-year term. Typically, one grant would be awarded by the Chapter Executive each year.

This proposal, including criteria for application and adjudication processes will be presented to the PSC Chapter at the AGM 2021 for approval. The Chapter's finances are sufficiently stable

to support such a grant and a condition would be put in place such that the grant would not be awarded if the Chapter's finances were below \$1500.00 at any time in the budget year. The grant will be managed by the Chapter Executive.

**Applications.** Applications for the grant would require:

- Submission of a completed application form with the participant name(s);
- Evidence that the applicant carries the CCC designation;
- a clear statement of objectives;
- practitioner's applied research question focusing the work of the project;
- method of design of the project;
- a statement of consent (if human subjects are included);
- a statement describing the significance of the project;
- a clear timeline for completion of the project;
- and a plan for the dissemination of the findings.

**Selection.** Some flexibility may be required by the Executive for the first three years of the grant project pilot to allow for unexpected circumstances that may develop as time progresses. Criteria for selection of a project would include:

- the quality and comprehensiveness of the application documentation;
- written confirmation of consent for use of any community/institutional facilities required for the project;
- the length of time required for the project (under a year);
- the significance and potential impact of the findings;
- and the feasibility of the dissemination plan.

It is important that some form of dissemination is required for successful selection of the fund.

**Funding.** Grants of \$500 will be awarded in full at the start of the grant period. Larger grants may be awarded in two instalments, with one half awarded at the start of the grant period and the second half awarded upon receipt of the interim report. Applications will be required by June 30th each year, and decisions about grants will be communicated in early August. Grant recipients are required to provide an interim report (by the end of January following the allocation of the award) updating the Chapter Executive on the progress of the project.

The Chapter Executive will identify member(s) responsible for reviewing reports, and addressing any questions arising from grant recipients. Project grants will be limited to \$500 (exceptionally, \$1000) annually.

**Dissemination.** Results of the project will be disseminated to members of the Chapter via publication (social media, blogs, conference publications, by direct e-mail and/or other formats) or via presentation at the Chapter's AGM. The intellectual property rights remain with the authors, but the PSC Chapter reserves the right to use the results for one year following completion of the project. The name and title of the project (along with a link to any published findings where applicable) will appear on the PSC Chapter's website for public viewing. This

would be agreed upon with signatures by participant(s) at the time of application.

### **Significance of this Proposal**

The benefits of this initiative include the opportunity for the PSC Chapter to support practitioners in their efforts to shape the future of post-secondary counselling in Canada by contributing to the scholarly literature that informs evidence-based practice. In addition to supporting Chapter members and contributing to the relevant literature, this initiative provides an opportunity to raise the profile of the PSC Chapter and awareness of post-secondary counselling more generally. Grant recipients will be asked to acknowledge the support of the Chapter and the CCPA/ACCP when disseminating results.

### **Summary**

Following refinement and translation of this proposal and the associated application and selection/evaluation materials, the Chapter membership will be asked to approve a three-year pilot of the Post-Secondary Counsellor Practitioner Research Grant program (at the 2021 AGM).

With thanks to colleagues in the Career Counsellor Chapter for sharing resources related to piloting a Practitioner Research Grant Program!