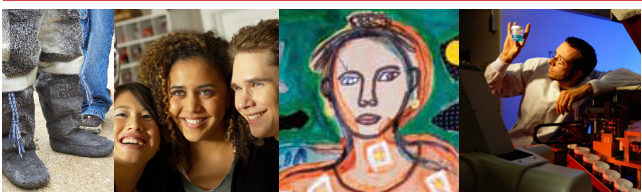




Canadian Institutes
of Health Research

Instituts de recherche
en santé du Canada

CIHR HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research Program



Canada



Background

Under the direction of the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity, the CIHR HIV/AIDS Research Initiative is responsible for the management and oversight of the research components of the two major Government of Canada initiatives in HIV/AIDS: the Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada, and the Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative. These Initiatives provide funding to support researchers and trainees through the five streams of the CIHR HIV/AIDS Research Initiative:

1. Biomedical and clinical research
2. Health services and population health research
3. Community-Based Research Program
4. CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network
5. Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative

The CIHR HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research Program is the mechanism whereby CIHR funds community-based HIV research.

About the Community-Based Research Program

Community involvement has been a hallmark of health research and action on HIV/AIDS from the beginning of the epidemic. Communities continue to play a central role in HIV/AIDS research, creating a model for communities taking action on other diseases and conditions. Through the CIHR HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research (CBR) Program, CIHR supports research that engages communities in all stages of research, from the definition of the research question, to capacity building and integration of community members in conducting research, to active participation in disseminating research results.

The CIHR HIV/AIDS CBR Program assists community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations and institutions in developing the knowledge they need to carry out their work in the most effective manner and in creating research expertise within these organizations. Funding is delivered through two streams: Aboriginal research and General (non-Aboriginal) research, each with their own distinct budget and review committee.

The CIHR HIV/AIDS CBR Program supports partnerships between community leaders and researchers in carrying out research and capacity-building initiatives relevant to communities engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In general, community leaders ensure that research will lead to practical and useful outcomes that will directly benefit the community, while researchers, coming from academia or other research institutions, contribute their research expertise in methodology, scientific rigour and supervision of future researchers.

Funding and Review

The CIHR HIV/AIDS CBR Program funds research, capacity building and knowledge translation activities through a variety of funding opportunities.

The CIHR HIV/AIDS CBR Program espouses the same values of methodological rigour and ethical review as other research approaches. Each proposal submitted to the program under any of these mechanisms is evaluated under two main criteria with equal weight: potential impact and scientific merit.

Giving Direction: the CBR Steering Committee

The CIHR HIV/AIDS CBR Program is guided by the efforts of the CBR Steering Committee. The Committee has equal representation of HIV/AIDS CBR researchers and broader community organizations for both the General and Aboriginal streams of the program. The Steering Committee guides the development of the CBR program through recommendations to the CIHR HIV/AIDS Research Advisory Committee (CHARAC) and CIHR.

Collaborative Centres

In order to build capacity within the CBR community, CIHR funds two Collaborative Centres of HIV/AIDS community-based research (one in the Aboriginal stream and one in the General stream).

The Collaborative Centres support, evolve and expand the collaborative work between existing HIV/AIDS national structures with regional and/or provincial HIV/AIDS community-based organizations and researchers in order to foster the national coordination of HIV/AIDS community-based research efforts. The Centres also provide infrastructure support to position HIV/AIDS community organizations and academic teams to develop strategic research programs. Further, the Centres promote the creation, and its translation, of new knowledge that is relevant to communities.



For More information

For more information on the CIHR HIV/AIDS CBR Program, please visit www.cihr.gc.ca/e/25835.html, or email to HIVAIDS-VIHSIDA@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

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