

## RTO/ERO FOUNDATION CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### Introduction

The RTO/ERO Foundation is inviting proposals for research, interventions and innovative programming to address Canada's #1 emerging issue for seniors – social isolation.

The negative impact that social isolation has on individuals, communities and society at large is well documented. To name a few of the implications, social isolation can increase vulnerability for elder abuse, financial exploitation, and lead to poor mental and physical health.

Overcoming the complex set of factors that lead to the isolation of seniors can be challenging, requiring a coordinated approach from a variety of stakeholders including researchers, community organizations and services. The challenges are exacerbated by difficulties in how we identify vulnerable, isolated seniors and support them to strengthen connections with others in their community, or to establish new ways to engage.

The RTO/ERO Foundation is striving to increase awareness about social isolation affecting older adults, to share knowledge about this issue, and to encourage action at the community level to consult, collaborate and coordinate interventions and approaches.

With a total funding envelope of up to \$100,000, the RTO/ERO Foundation is seeking well-qualified applications that advance our collective knowledge about the social isolation of seniors in Canada and/or that evaluate innovative programming and interventions to reduce the burden of social isolation on the health and wellbeing of older adults.

### Areas of Focus

The RTO/ERO Foundation will consider proposals that fall within one of more of the following areas:

- That advance our understanding of how social isolation impacts our health and well being
- That focus on developing community-based coalitions that facilitate collaboration and coordination between community agencies
- That focus on specific geographic areas: urban, small community, rural or remote settings
- That bring researchers and communities together to find practical and innovative solutions to addressing social isolation
- That address vulnerable and at-risk populations, i.e. generational poverty, immigrants, LBGTQ+, remote, rural and indigenous populations, assistive living or long term care residents

## Eligibility Criteria

- Funds must be received and administered by a registered Canadian charity
- Projects should use current literature and evidence to make their case and have a strong evaluation component that shows the potential for impact
- The RTO/ERO Foundation generally funds projects in the \$25,000 to \$50,000 level
- Funding is focussed in the communities served by the Retired Teachers of Ontario – Ontario, Lower Mainland BC and Vancouver Island
- We encourage community organizations and academic researchers to join forces to apply evidence to real life situations
- Proposals should include a strong evaluation component to determine the value and impact of the project
- Projects that result in the development of toolkits, manuals, videos or other lay oriented information will be given priority
- Projects must receive ethics approval prior to funds being distributed
- Projects should involve older adults in all phases, including the development, implementation and evaluation stages

## Application Process

- **Letters of Intent** will be accepted up **until midnight EST on December 15, 2018**. Letters should be no longer than three pages, and include project lead contact information, a short description of the project, its objectives and desired outcomes; the organizations expected to be involved in the project; the name and charitable registration number of the organization that will be administering the funds, an estimated budget amount, and the estimated timeline for project completion
- Letters of Intent should be sent electronically with Subject Line: RTO/ERO Foundation Grant – Social Isolation – LOI to [jsobie@rto-ero.org](mailto:jsobie@rto-ero.org)
- The Foundation **will invite detailed proposals** based on the relevance of the proposed project. Proposal invitations can be expected by February 1, 2019
- Project proposals should include:
  - A front page, including project title, name and charitable registration number for lead organization, project lead contact information, and project partners
  - Maximum five pages describing the project; objectives (rationale including why it is important to seniors in Ontario), methods (study design and team roles), prospective benefits/expected findings and any risks, evaluation criteria, explanation of how research proposal findings/outcomes will be translated into action/benefits for older adults (including how results will be

disseminated), project feasibility, and timeline. Please disclose any corporate/pharmaceutical partners

- Provide CV's for key project key participants as addendum
- **Budget:** The Expense Report is detailed, complete and expenses are supported by quotation(s); other expenses (if applicable) are listed; identification of matching grants, other funders and amounts pledged (if applicable) are listed
- **RTO/ERO Foundation Recognition:** Describe how the RTO/ERO Foundation will be recognized for its support of this project
- **Deadline for detailed proposals will be midnight EST April 1, 2019.**
- All proposals should be sent electronically with Subject Line: **RTO/ERO Foundation Grant – Social Isolation – Proposal** to [jsobie@rto-ero.org](mailto:jsobie@rto-ero.org)
- Successful applicants will be notified by May 15, 2019

### Proposal Review Process

- All proposals are reviewed and scored, based on the above criteria, by a panel of experts and peer reviewers.
- Projects that are scored as qualified and fundable will be prioritized for funding
- The RTO/ERO Board of Directors make final decisions on the successful applicants

### Role of the Successful Applicant

The successful applicant agrees to the following terms (to be outlined in a formal letter):

- Projects must begin within six months of approval
- The RTO/ERO Foundation will be recognized in materials (print and electronic) related to the project including, but not limited to: announcements, press releases, promotional material, reports, etc. as well as plaques and naming opportunities as appropriate for the grant and the institution
- An interim and final report outlining project results, challenges, key learnings and other highlights
- RTO/ERO Foundation will be given access to key individuals involved in the project for the purpose of our own marketing and promotion; as well as liaison with local RTO/ERO members

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