

Crime Reduction Research Program Funding Call-Out for University-led Research on Crime Reduction

Program Overview

The Office of Crime Reduction and Gang Outreach (OCR-GO), part of the Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (MPSSG), is leading the development of a new joint research model in British Columbia through a Crime Reduction Research Program (CRRP). The CRRP is supported and informed by a Working Group which includes representation from partnership agencies including the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Branch (CSCP), MPSSG, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) "E" Division.

The CRRP operates a \$1M annual funding allocation dedicated to support university-led research at Canadian institutions. The CRRP focuses on investing in pragmatic research that can be applied to support policing operations and inform evidence-based decisions on policies and programs related to public safety in British Columbia.

The OCR-GO, on behalf of the CRRP Working Group, invites submission of research proposals in support of this mandate. Partnership agencies of the CRRP Working Group will support successful proposals by working with researchers to refine study design as necessary, provide or acquire requisite data for projects, and advise on the validity of data interpretation and the practicality of recommendations. **Police data can be provided as necessary, subject to security requirements.**

Call for Research Project Proposals

Following the targeted call-out that was distributed in October 2018, the Crime Reduction Research Working Group has prioritized a number of research themes for the second allotment of funding. The identified themes include:

- 1) Gangs and gun violence
(e.g. Involvement of minority populations in gangs such as women, Indigenous peoples; social or economic impact of gun violence, etc.)
- 2) Serious, organized and major crimes
(e.g. Homicide; human trafficking; criminal networks; etc.)
- 3) Illicit drug markets
(e.g. Identifying legislative and policy approaches to defeat the importation, diversion, and/or production of illicit drugs, including synthetic drug precursors and emerging and evolving analogs).
- 4) Evidence-based policing
(e.g. Problem-oriented policing; intelligence-led policing; hotspot policing; offender management programs; return on investment/cost avoidance and police performance, etc.)

- 5) Evidence-based crime prevention
(e.g. Offender management /behaviour change; vulnerable/"at risk" persons and groups; universal programs for children, youth, adults, and families; strategies to prevent crime and reduce risk inherent in places, products, and/or activities; etc.)
- 6) Intelligence analysis processes
(e.g. Examination or evaluation of processes related to organized crime and gangs in BC)

Type of Project

The CRRP funding stream supports innovative empirical research that use quantitative and/or qualitative data to address information and intelligence gaps related to the areas listed above.

Eligible Recipients

To be eligible for CRRP funding, proposed projects must meet each of the following criteria:

- The principal investigator must be employed by a Canadian university through whom the funds will be disbursed.
- All involved parties must be willing and able to obtain and maintain an RCMP security clearance if necessary.
- All involved parties must be willing and able to work from an assigned secure lab if protected data is provided.

Eligible Expenditures

Eligible expenditures supported through CRRP funds must be directly related to the activities of the research project. Applications will include a submitted budget (please refer to Appendix A: Budget Report) and project expenditures will be factored in to assess the competitiveness of the proposal. Eligible expenditures may include honoraria, salaries and wages, supplies and materials, technical and specialized services, travel and accommodation associated with direct research activities of the project, and participant incentives.

Maximum Amount and Period of Funding

Projects supported under the CRRP will not exceed 18 months. The maximum funding available per recipient, per project should not exceed \$100, 000.

Application Submission

The current call for research proposal is open from **November 20, 2018** to **December 31, 2018**. Applications must include the following three components:

- A. Research proposal (includes the following three [3] sections and does not exceed five [5] pages):**
- 1) **Background:** Please provide an overview of the issue you are proposing to explore from the list of request projects, including a summary of any previous work you have completed on this topic and its relationship to the proposal.
 - 2) **Methodology:** Please describe how your project will be designed to achieve objectives related to the identified requested research themes. Please detail planned research activities and steps. Provide a methodology section describing sample, data required and analytic strategy. **Subject to security requirements, where data is required to complete the requested projects it may be provided.**
 - 3) **Deliverables and Outcomes:** Please provide a timeline that includes all the deliverables proposed (competitive applications will culminate in an output that has significance for practitioners, policy makers, or stakeholders). Please note that one required deliverable will be a consultative meeting between the principal researcher and members of CRRP following data analysis to review drafted findings and recommendations with the goal of ensuring the practical value of the final deliverables.
- B. Project Budget:** Please complete the Budget Report (Appendix A) and include all the eligible expenditures that are directly associated with the project activities (including staffing and travel necessary for data collection).
- C. Academic Curriculum Vitae:** Please provide a curriculum vitae highlighting relevant expertise required to conduct the proposed project. Applicants are encouraged to identify clearly their capacity to provide research services during the CRRP funding timeline (e.g., 12-18 months).

Please send completed applications to ocrgo@gov.bc.ca no later than 23:59 PST on **December 31, 2018**.

Application Evaluation

All applications will be reviewed and assessed by the CRRP Working Group (comprised of representatives from the OCR-GO, CSCPB, CFSEU-BC and the RCMP "E" Division) based on the criteria outlined above.

All applicants will be directly contacted by OCR-GO with the results of their submission. Research projects are expected to be underway effective April 1, 2019. Additional inquiries can be directed to the CRRP administrative team at ocrgo@gov.bc.ca.