

2026 CRISM Atlantic Working Group Research Funding Call

The CRISM Atlantic Node is pleased to announce a funding call open to CRISM Atlantic members. Projects must align with one of the following three themes: (1) Concurrent Disorders; (2) Youth and Substance Use; or (3) Rural Access and Telehealth. One application for each theme will be awarded \$40,000 in funding over two years, for a total of three funded projects across all themes. Submissions will only be considered under one theme. If your project aligns with multiple themes, please submit it to the most relevant one.

Research Objectives: Research projects in this funding call may take various approaches, including qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods designs, and can focus on a wide range of goals, including one or more of the following:

- **Enhance Understanding:** Advance knowledge of the risks, protective factors, and consequences of substance use (SU) matters and related interventions
- **Identify Key Priorities:** Determine critical targets for intervention, harm reduction services, and/or substance use policy
- **Develop and Evaluate Interventions:** Co-develop and -evaluate novel, meaningful, and accessible interventions (psychosocial, pharmacological, policy) within priority areas to improve health outcomes
- **Bridge Research & Practice:** Strengthen bidirectional collaboration between research and practice to ensure the research agenda supports provider- and community-identified service and policy needs

Successful projects will prioritize the following **criteria**:

- Alignment with at least one or more of the three themes: (1) Concurrent Disorders; (2) Youth and Substance Use; or (3) Rural Access and Telehealth;
- Strong preference will be given to projects that address one or more of the following three priority areas: (1) Persons with Lived and Living Experience (PWLLE); (2) Indigenous Peoples; and (3) Sex and Gender perspectives (see pg.3, more information on priority areas);
- Capacity-building potential;
- Novelty and scientific merit;
- Potential to improve the likelihood of securing additional funding from other agencies;
- Realistic in timeframe and allotted budget; and
- Inherently Atlantic in:
 - the population studied;
 - investigators/partners involved
 - has the potential to or does impact 2+ provincial jurisdictions in the Atlantic Region



Themes

Concurrent Disorders

The co-occurrence of mental health and substance use impacts between one-third to one-half of individuals in treatment, posing challenges for care providers and people in treatment. The CRISM **Concurrent Disorders Working Group** mandate is to support research that addresses the comorbidity of substance use disorders with mental health and chronic pain disorders.

This funding call will prioritize projects that:

- Are innovative and clinically relevant, aim to address existing knowledge gaps, and advance treatment options for concurrent disorders; and
- Clearly articulate how the research will contribute to the evidence base & improve outcomes for individuals with concurrent disorders in the region.

Funding of up to \$40,000.00 is available for one project under this theme.

Youth and Substance Use

Adolescents and emerging adults (10-29 years) have higher rates of substance use disorders compared to any other time in the lifespan, making research in this area critically important. The CRISM **Youth and Substance Use Working Group** mandate is to support evidence-based youth substance use research within the region.

This funding call will prioritize projects that:

- Articulate how the research will contribute to youth-focused substance use prevention, harm reduction, and/or treatment and improve outcomes for this equity-deserving population;
- Are novel and evidence-based, advance understanding of substance use behaviors, mitigate associated risks, and enhance intervention strategies tailored to adolescents and emerging adults.

Funding of up to \$40,000.00 is available for one project under this theme.

Rural Access and Telehealth

Rural and remote communities face significant barriers to accessing substance use and mental health services. Additionally, there is a critical need for culturally appropriate programs and services for Indigenous Peoples. The CRISM **Rural Access and Telehealth Working Group** mandate is to support research that addresses barriers to accessing necessary services and supports the use of telehealth approaches to substance use intervention.

This funding call will prioritize projects that:

- Address the unique challenges of delivering substance use and mental health services in rural Atlantic Canada. This can include or be focused on the accessibility and effectiveness of telehealth services for substance use treatment in rural and remote communities;
- Clearly articulate how the research will improve equitable access to care, addressing the unique needs of rural and/or Indigenous populations

Funding of up to \$40,000.00 is available for one project under this theme.

Priority Areas

The CRISM Atlantic Node recognizes the following three research priority areas as key to addressing substance use matters in the Atlantic Region. Research proposals should:

- include clearly stated plans for methods and analysis with **one** or **more** of these **priority areas**;
- describe how meaningful co-design and the diverse experience of members of the priority area(s) will support and inform the project phases from priority setting to analysis to shaping recommendations; and
- will be conducted in a respectful and culturally safe manner

Indigenous Peoples: research should focus on the unique needs and circumstances for improving substance use matters as it relates to the health and social outcomes of Indigenous Peoples. Recognizing the importance of relationships for Indigenous people, the description should specify the relationship(s), how they are/will be established and how Indigenous people are/will be engaged throughout the project.

People with Lived and Living Expertise (PWLE): Recognizing the importance of relationships, power sharing and building trust, the description should specify the relationship(s), how they are/will be established, and how PWLE are/will be engaged throughout the project.

Sex & Gender Perspectives: research should focus on the intersection of sex and gender perspectives in the development and implementation of research. Describe how integrating sex and gender will impact/influence study design, recruitment, data collection and outcomes.

Innovative research in each of these areas will contribute to improving equitable access to care, look to address the unique needs of each population, and aim to advance the region's leadership in substance use and mental health service delivery.

Submission Details:

CRISM funding is provided through the Canadian Institutes for Health Research ([CIHR](#)). In keeping with CIHR agency guidelines, funded projects need to be linked with an academic appointment. That person can take on the role of Principal Applicant or Co-Applicant in our funding applications. We've included an [FAQ section](#) where you can learn more about this and other frequently asked questions.

The application document and instructions can be found via the [CRISM Atlantic website](#)

The electronic application ([click on this form](#)) must be submitted by 4pm (AST), Friday, April 10th, 2026.

This funding call is open to CRISM Atlantic Members only. To apply to become a CRISM Atlantic member click: [CRISM Atlantic](#)

If you have any questions, please email [crismatlantic@gmail.com] and reference "2026 Working Group Funding Inquiry" in the subject line.