



2026 - Research Development Program (RDP) Supporting Emerging Research and Promising Protocols

The CRISM Atlantic Node is pleased to announce the launch of the 2026 CRISM Atlantic Research Development Program (RDP). The Atlantic Node brings together knowledge users, clinicians, Indigenous Peoples, researchers, persons with lived and living experience, and public health stakeholders to identify priorities and advance interventional research in substance use. The Node supports the development and implementation of fundable, relevant, innovative protocols that have the potential to accelerate the transfer to practice of scientific knowledge in intervention and management of substance use.

Objectives of the Research Development Program (RDP)

Drawing on consultations with network members about the increasing challenges of accessing funding from external granting competitions (more applicants, less funds), the RDP was designed to support CRISM Atlantic Node members with seed funding for the development of research projects and protocols that seek to:

- i) improve evidence-based practices (interventions, including public health interventions and harm reduction approaches) aimed at populations affected by substance use and/or those with or at risk of a substance use disorder;
- ii) contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field with new emerging approaches, paradigms, and methodologies that are culturally respectful

Although this funding opportunity/competition will attract CRISM Atlantic Node members with experience in the competitive research grant application environment, we strongly encourage interested node members with less experience to collaborate with research experienced colleagues to submit competitive proposals. Please refer to “Submission Details” below and to an [FAQ](#) section where you can learn more about team members’ roles and other frequently asked questions.

Research Priority Themes & Areas

The 2026 CRISM Atlantic Research Development Program will give preference to research project applications focused on one or more of the Atlantic Node’s three identified **key research themes**:

- Youth and Substance Use;
- Rural Access and Telehealth;
- Concurrent Disorders;

While preference will be given to funding projects in these key areas, proposals focused on other areas of addiction intervention research are welcomed as well.

Preference will also be given to projects which show consideration for the inclusion of one or more of the three cross cutting **priority areas** that inform the Node's work:

- Indigenous Peoples;
- Persons with Lived and Living Experience; and
- Sex and Gender perspectives

Research engaging Indigenous Peoples should include the principles of Two-Eyed Seeing; describe how First Nations partners will be able to retain Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP®) of all data; and how Inuit partnerships will adhere to ITK's five priority areas of the National Inuit Strategy on Research Principles of Inuit (NISR).

Categories of Admissible Research Activities

Applicants are invited to submit a proposal to obtain financial support to:

1. **Generate** preliminary data or structuring activities (for example, inter-sectoral consultations, collection, or organization of data) related to the development of a new research protocol or proposal (category 1);
2. **Develop a new research protocol or proposal** for submission to a recognized granting agency (category 2); or
3. **Improve** a promising research protocol or proposal that has already been submitted to a recognized granting agency competition and was assessed but has not yet received the funding requested. This could include costs for writing assistance and/or pilot data collection that would strengthen the proposal for future external funding (category 3).

A maximum of \$10,000 can be awarded to an emerging project proposal (category 1 or 2). A maximum of \$15,000 can be awarded to a promising project proposal (category 3). Number of awards made will depend on funds available.

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 [FAQs 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 RDP is open to CRISM Atlantic Members. To apply to become a CRISM Atlantic member click [this link](#). Interested RDP applicants should forward any inquiries to [\[crismatlantic@gmail.com\]](mailto:crismatlantic@gmail.com).

Submission date: To access the form, click here: [CRISM Atlantic RDP 2026 Application form](#). Submit RDP application and supporting documents **by Friday, April 10th, 2026 before 4 PM (AST)**.