

# Research Partnerships Program

## 2025 Call for Proposals

### Overview

Research plays a vital role in ensuring that policies and practices in the education system are evidence-based. Alberta Education is providing a funding opportunity to support research in key areas.

The Research Partnerships Program facilitates opportunities for research connections between post-secondary research institutions and school authorities. This program is intended to support collaborative research projects that focus on research questions most relevant to Alberta's education system.

Funds provided by the program will support research priorities that have the potential to impact the early childhood to Grade 12 education system and improve outcomes for students.

### Research Priorities

1. Relationship building between Indigenous communities and schools to improve educational outcomes for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students
2. Learning supports to address diverse and complex classroom needs
3. Social-emotional wellness of students and teachers
4. Access to pathways into post-secondary education and the workforce
5. Effective strategies for the recruitment and retention of qualified teachers, teacher leaders, and education support staff
6. Implementation supports and effective assessments for the development of foundational skills in literacy and numeracy
7. Approaches to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the school system

### Eligibility

To be eligible for the Research Partnerships Program:

- Submitting organizations are limited to school authorities and faculties at post-secondary institutions. The submitting organization must be a member of the Alberta Research Network, as per the Member Organizations List.
- If multiple individuals in the partnership are from a post-secondary institution, at least one of the individuals must be from an Alberta Research Network member faculty.

- The primary investigator must be a faculty member at an Alberta post-secondary institution that conducts educational research.
- The research team must include appropriate school authority representatives.
- The research project must be directly relevant to one or more of the Research Priorities.

### Invitation to Submit a Proposal

Research partnerships that meet the eligibility requirements are invited to submit a short research proposal and a completed grant application form to Alberta Education for the Research Partnerships Program. **Both the proposal, including letters of support, and the Application for Conditional Grant Funding form are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 10, 2025.**

Alberta Education's Research and Policy Branch is not responsible for failures (technical or otherwise) that may result in a proposal not being received by the 2025 Call for Proposals closing date and time.

Only research proposals that meet all eligibility requirements and are submitted on time will be considered for funding.

### Research Funding

Up to \$250,000 will be awarded through this 2025 Call for Proposals.

If selected, your research partnership will receive a conditional grant to support your collaborative research project.

There are two grant options available. Individual applications can only be submitted for one of the following grant options.

#### Strategic Opportunity Grant

A \$20,000 to \$50,000 grant for small- to medium-scale studies with shorter timelines (up to two years), including but not limited to:

- secondary data analysis;
- environmental scan;
- evaluation of an existing program; or
- single-cycle, single-informant, and/or single-site investigation.

## Comprehensive Grant

A \$50,000 to \$80,000 grant for large-scale studies with longer timelines (up to three years), including but not limited to:

- design-based investigation;
- capacity building initiative; or
- multi-cycle, multi-informant, and/or multi-site investigation.

For each option, funding can be used toward:

- collaborative planning;
- conducting the research;
- participating in research meetings hosted by Research and Policy Branch; and
- disseminating (within Canada) knowledge generated through research activities.

## Indirect Costs of Research

All research incurs indirect institutional costs that benefit and support the research. For this Call for Proposals, a maximum of 10% of the Research Partnerships Program grant funding is permitted to cover indirect costs.

## Proposal Requirements

Proposals must include the following information:

- **Proposal Title Page:** Study title, names of research partner organizations and the project's key contact. **Note:** Proposals must be submitted by organizations (Alberta school authorities or Alberta post-secondary institutions), not by individuals or schools.
- **Research Project Description** (maximum 5,000 words):
  - **Overview:** A brief description of the project, including an evidence-based rationale and project goals.
  - **Focus:** Identify which of the seven research priorities will be addressed and indicate how the study could improve the education system and outcomes for students.
  - **Research Partners:** Identify the research partnership team members, including each member's role(s) and responsibilities within the research project, as well as relevant qualifications and experience. **Note:** Diverse perspectives and collaboration among multiple school authorities or post-secondary institutions are encouraged. It is important to describe specific principles and processes that will guide how team members will work together as partners.
  - **Research Outline:** Provide a brief research outline, including proposed research question(s), methodology, relevance to the identified research priority or priorities,

potential applications or implications, and timeline.

- **Participants:** Identify the types of participants (e.g., teachers, students) from whom you intend to collect data. Include an estimate of the number of each type of participant.
- **Knowledge Mobilization Plan:** Indicate how you will support the building and sharing of knowledge within Canada (e.g., presentations, publications, briefs, webinars, posters, etc.). **Note:** Successful applicants will be required to participate in knowledge-sharing opportunities sponsored by Alberta Education.

- **Budget:** Provide an itemized budget indicating the requested funding amount and how the funds will be spent. Indirect costs must be specified and presented as a separate line item. Include any matching funds and/or in-kind support that will be provided by the partners. Priority consideration will be given to proposals that include matching funds.

Grant recipients and their research partners are expected to keep records and receipts for costs and to account for the use of the grant funds provided.

The budget should align with the appropriate funding for the intended grant option:

- **Strategic Opportunity Grant:** any amount between \$20,000 and \$50,000
- **Comprehensive Grant:** any amount between \$50,000 and \$80,000
- **Letters of Support:** Provide letters of support from the senior leadership of every partner organization named in the proposal. These letters will be used to evaluate organizational knowledge of and investment in the proposed project.

## Submission Process

Please refer to the fact sheet, *Get the Facts: The 2025 RPP Call for Proposals*, before finalizing your submission.

Both the proposal (Word or PDF format), including an itemized budget and letters of support, and the Application for Conditional Grant form must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on January 10, 2025 to: [EDC.RPP@gov.ab.ca](mailto:EDC.RPP@gov.ab.ca). Please use the subject line: **RPP CFP8 Submission**.

You will receive an email to confirm receipt of your proposal.

## Additional Information

Please refer to the *Get the Facts: The 2025 RPP Call for Proposals* document for additional important information.

## Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

**Brenna Zatto**

Research Analyst

Research and Policy Branch, Alberta Education

[EDC.RPP@gov.ab.ca](mailto:EDC.RPP@gov.ab.ca)

(780) 427-9757

(For a toll-free call in Alberta, call 310-0000 first.)