

Creating Culturally Responsive Services for Indigenous; African, Caribbean, Black (ACB); and Racialized Survivors of Homicide Victims

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) - 2021-2022

1.0 Background

Homicide-related death has a devastating impact on the mental, physical, and spiritual well-being of family members and friends (hereafter referred to as survivors), who must face the daunting challenge of learning to cope with the homicide of their loved one(s). Experiencing the murder of a loved one interferes with daily functioning and disrupts the ability of survivors to make meaning of the world around them, having profound consequences on their mental health, productivity, quality of life and well-being.^{i,ii,iii,iv}

On average, Canadians experience 550 homicides each year. Out of 13 provinces and territories from 2014-2018, the number of homicides has been highest in Ontario. Moreover, Ontario has witnessed a substantial increase in its homicide rate within the last five years, compared to other provinces.^v In 2014, Ontario experienced 135 homicides (26% of all homicides in Canada) while in 2018, Ontario experienced 224 homicides (34% of all homicides in Canada). Ontario therefore carries the highest burden of homicide death and is also home to the largest racialized populations in the country, thus highlighting that individuals who have experienced the homicide of a family member and/or friend disproportionately derive from Indigenous, ACB and Racialized communities.^{vi,vii} The overrepresentation of these survivors of homicide victims highlights the increasing need for victim services to be well versed in the provision of support services in a culturally responsive manner.

2.0 Research¹

The Centre for Research and Innovation for Black Survivors of Homicide Victims (The CRIB) based out of the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario Division of Public Policy, with the support of the Anti-Racism Directorate of Ontario, conducted community-engaged research within five Ontario cities with the highest homicide rates in 2019 (Brantford, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Toronto, and Windsor). The research sought to increase the understanding of the impact, prevalence, and coping strategies of Indigenous, ACB and Racialized survivors of homicide victims, and their service providers to identify promising practices and determine where culturally responsive strategies are needed to serve Ontarians that are affected by homicide. Two forums (the Knowledge Exchange Forum on April 27, 2021 and the Public Policy Forum on April 30, 2021) were held to share research findings among community and government stakeholders and to develop policy recommendations designed to meet the needs of Indigenous, ACB and Racialized survivors of homicide victims.

¹ This research was conducted in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association Ontario, with funding support from the Anti-Racism Directorate of Ontario.

3.0 Funding Opportunity

The CRIB and CMHA Ontario are seeking proposals from individuals of eligible organizations who were in attendance at the forums to demonstrate creative use of the knowledge gained from the forums to enhance services at their institutions for Indigenous, ACB and Racialized survivors of homicide victims.

3.1 Eligibility Criteria

- Community-based² agencies that attended **both** the Knowledge Exchange Forum held on April 27, 2021 and the Public Policy Forum held on April 30, 2021, co-hosted by The CRIB and CMHA Ontario. ***NOTE** – Applicants must provide evidence of attendance by submitting certificates of completion for each of the forums with their application.
- Community-based agencies must provide service to one or more of the following populations: Indigenous; African, Caribbean, Black; and/or Racialized.
- Community-based agencies must be based in one of the following five cities in Ontario: Brantford, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Toronto, or Windsor.
- Community-based agencies who are committed to and/or have demonstrated experience in at least one or more of the following areas: social justice and human rights; anti-oppression and anti-racism; social determinants of health and health equity; trauma-informed practice; cultural safety; intersectionality; or gender-based analysis plus (SGBA+).

3.2 Goals and Expectations

- The goal of this funding opportunity is to drive innovation towards culturally responsive best practices for Indigenous, ACB and Racialized survivors of homicide victims. The award is expected to be used to build capacity to:
 - a. Address gaps in knowledge and/or service provision among service providers serving Indigenous, ACB and Racialized survivors of homicide victims; and
 - b. Support the provision of mental health services for Indigenous, ACB and Racialized survivors of homicide victims.

3.3 Priorities

- The relationship between homicide and mental health is complex and multi-faceted, shaped by personal, social, political, and economic factors, and gives rise to questions about health equity, human rights, race, social justice, and more. Applicants should consider how to address these factors as they develop their proposal. However, the proposed projects or initiatives must serve the following priority areas outlined below:

² Community-based refers to the philosophy whereby communities are given the opportunity to participate and contribute to matters related to their own development and aspirations.

- a. The award must be used for the benefit of Indigenous, ACB and Racialized survivors of homicide victims in need of services designed to support them in the management of their grief and bereavement in coping with the murder of a loved one.
- b. The award must benefit **one or more** of the following groups of survivors of homicide victims: Indigenous, ACB or Racialized.
- c. Projects or initiatives funded by the award should aim to apply knowledge and insight obtained at the Knowledge Exchange Forum on April 27, 2021 and the Public Policy Forum on April 30, 2021.

3.4 Project Streams

- The funding opportunity is divided into two streams for which eligible applicants may apply. Applicants may apply to **one** funding stream per application.

Stream 1: Service Providers

A project/initiative to support and enhance the work of **service providers** serving survivors of homicide victims from either Indigenous, ACB and/or Racialized communities. Examples of projects that may be funded include, but are not limited to:

Option 1: Education and training for service providers

Option 2: Development and implementation of a coalition/service provider network

Option 3: Service provider mentorship program

Stream 2: Survivors of Homicide Victims

A project/initiative to support the mental health of **survivors of homicide victims**. Examples of projects that may be funded include, but are not limited to:

Option 1: Virtual mental health services support

Option 2: Peer support groups

Option 3: Therapeutic services

4.0 Award Information

Details of Awards

Length of performance period	12 months
Number of awards anticipated	3 awards
Award ceiling	\$Up to 25,000 per project
Total available funding	\$75,000

5.0 Timeline

Event

RFP Release Date
Informational Webinar
Deadline for Submission of Questions
Application Deadline
Evaluation Committee Decision
Announcement of Awards
Anticipated Project Start Date
Midterm/Progress Report Deadline
Completion/Final Report Deadline

Deadline

June 14, 2021
June 25, 2021
July 16, 2021 by 5:00pm EST
July 30, 2021 by 5:00pm EST
August 16, 2021
August 20, 2021
November 1, 2021
6 months after the start date
12 months after the start date

6.0 Submission Instructions

Step 1: Prepare Proposal

Each Proposal must use the template provided; be formatted in PDF; be submitted as one document; adhere to the word count stated in the template; and contain the following details and subheadings (see 'Proposal Template for Applicants' attached for more detailed information):

- i. Project Overview
- ii. Principal Applicant & Team Profile
- iii. Project Title, Abstract, and Goals & Objectives
- iv. Statement of Need
- v. Methods & Strategies
- vi. Plan for Evaluation
- vii. Team Member Roles

Step 2: Prepare Supporting Documents

Each Applicant must also submit the following supporting documents, which may be submitted as separate attachments (or it may be added to the project proposal above):

- i. Knowledge Exchange and Policy Forum Certificates (two)*
- ii. Project Deliverables & Milestones**
- iii. Budget ***
- iv. Letters of Reference (two)****

*Individuals who attended both the Knowledge Exchange Forum and the Policy Forum would have received two certificates (one from each forum.) Applicants must submit both certificates with their application.

** Please see "Schedule A (on pg.11)" of the "Proposal Template for Applicants" attached.

*** Please see "Schedule B (on pg.12)" of the "Proposal Template for Applicants" attached.

**** Please see "Appendix (on pg.13-14)" of the "Proposal Template for Applicants" attached.

Step 3: Submit Application

Applicants who are interested in applying for funding must submit their application:

- i. By email to: khellon.roach@utoronto.ca
- ii. Attention: Dr. Khellon Roach
- iii. With subject line: Creating Culturally Responsive Services for Indigenous, African, Caribbean, Black (ACB) and Racialized Survivors of Homicide Victims - RFP 2021-2022
- iv. By the Application Deadline Date: July 30, 2021 by 5:00pm EST

It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure timely submission of their application and therefore applications received after the scheduled date and time of **July 30, 2021 by 5:00pm EST** will **not** be accepted. Applicants are also responsible for the accuracy of their submission. The Evaluation Committee reserves the right, to withdraw or modify this RFP and to reject any Application if non-responsive.

- a. The Evaluation Committee will accept written questions via email from prospective Applicants up to and no later than July 16, 2021 by 5:00pm EST. Please submit questions to: khellon.roach@utoronto.ca
- b. If an Applicant discovers any discrepancy, omission or other error in this RFP, notification should be sent via email requesting clarification or modification to: khellon.roach@utoronto.ca

7.0 Evaluation & Selection Criteria

The Evaluation Committee will meet 2 – 4 weeks after the close of the Request for Proposals, subject to the availability of the members of the committee to select three projects/initiatives for funding.

Proposals submitted will be scored and ranked individually by the members of the Evaluation Committee against the selection criteria identified in the Table below. The scores awarded to each proposal will then be reviewed during the deliberation of the Evaluation Committee meeting before arriving at a consensus on the 3 projects to be awarded.

SELECTION CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Technical Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity of goals and objectives • Description and suitability of methods • Appropriateness of funding amount and project timeline 	25%
Project Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project innovation and creativity utilizing knowledge and policy forums insight to respond to the needs of Indigenous, ACB and or Racialized survivors of homicide victims in a culturally responsive manner 	30%

Creativity in Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative approaches to engage stakeholders in the community agency and elsewhere • Proposed knowledge transfer and information dissemination methods to enhance awareness at the community agency and elsewhere 	25%
Anticipated Project Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipated project outputs and the potential of these outputs to generate impact and reach a high volume of stakeholders 	10%
Experience & Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience and qualifications of the project team 	10%

8.0 Monitoring & Reporting Requirements for Successful Applicants

Applicants who are successful are required to submit a **Midterm/Progress Report** to the Evaluation Committee after 6 months and attend a progress monitoring meeting with members of the Evaluation Committee if requested. **Project Team Leaders may be invited to deliver presentations** to members of the Evaluation Committee at this point. The purpose of this midterm check in is to update the Evaluation Committee on the execution of activities against the approved project timelines and milestones.

Successful applicants are also required to submit a **Completion/Final Report** to the Evaluation Committee at the end of the project period and **deliver a presentation** (December 17, 2022 at the very latest). This Final Report and Presentation should highlight all of the main outcomes and impacts of the project. A Completion/Final Report template will be shared with successful applicants who are expected to use same.

Moreover, successful applicants and members of their project team may be called upon to **participate in events to promote the outcomes of their project up to 6 months after completion**, and as such, successful applicants will work in collaboration with The CRIB and CMHA Ontario to coordinate activities as it relates to dissemination and showcasing the outcomes and impact of their project.

Endnotes

ⁱ Herman, J. L. (1992). *Trauma and recovery*. New York, NY, US: Basic Books.

ⁱⁱ Armour, M. (2003). Meaning making in the aftermath of homicide. *Death Studies*, 27(6), 519-540.

ⁱⁱⁱ Rheingold, A. A., Zinzow, H., Hawkins, A., Saunders, B. E., & Kilpatrick, D. G. (2012). Prevalence and mental health outcomes of homicide survivors in a representative US sample of adolescents: Data from the 2005 National Survey of Adolescents. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 53(6), 687-694.

^{iv} Zinzow, H. M., Ruggiero, K. J., Resnick, H., Hanson, R., Smith, D., Saunders, B., & Kilpatrick, D. (2009). Prevalence and mental health correlates of witnessed parental and community violence in a national sample of adolescents. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 50(4), 441-450.

^v Statistics Canada. (2019). Number, rate and percentage changes in rates of homicide victims [Table]. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510006801>

^{vi} Ontario Ministry of Finance. (2017). 2016 Census highlights, factsheet 9: Ethnic origin and visible minorities. Retrieved from <https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/census/cenhi16-9.html>

^{vii} Statistics Canada. (2017). Ontario (Province) and Canada (Country) [Table]. Census profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Retrieved from <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/Page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=PR&Code1=35&Geo2=&Code2=&SearchText=Ontario&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&GeoLevel=PR&GeoCode=35&type=0>