

Photo Credit: Michela Carriere



Call for Research Grant Applications

Notice of Intent

The McDowell Foundation is inviting PreK-12 teachers and other educators to submit a Notice of Intent to begin the grant application process for research projects funded in the 2017-18 school year. Foundation grants provide funding, guidance and release time to support recipients' project goals and activities.

Prior research experience is not necessary. The Notice of Intent and overall application process assists applicants in developing a meaningful and achievable research project which supports professional development through reflective practice. Grants totaling \$85,000 are available.

The McDowell Foundation provides research grants to explore new and innovative ways to best meet the educational needs of students in Saskatchewan. A range of topics have been funded over the past 25 years and can be reviewed on the Foundation website, www.mcdowellfoundation.ca.

Notice of Intent Requirements

A completed Notice of Intent shall include the following:

- 1. Applicant(s)**
 - Project leader's name, address, phone number and email.
 - Project team members' names, phone numbers and emails.
- 2. Applicant Employer**
 - School, university or other.
- 3. Describe What You Intend to Study and Why**
 - Provide a 100- to 200-word summary.
- 4. Research Experience**
 - New, novice or skilled researcher.

The Notice of Intent should be emailed to mcdowell@stf.sk.ca by the November 14, 2016, deadline.

Grant Application Process

1. Submit a Notice of Intent by November 14, 2016.
2. Applicants are invited to a grant proposal development workshop in December 2016.
3. Applicants develop a draft grant proposal for review by January 30, 2017.
4. Applicants may revise the draft grant proposal based on the feedback and advice received and shall submit a final grant proposal by April 24, 2017.

Eligibility

McDowell Foundation grants support publicly funded educators, staff in public institutions of higher education and other professionals or organizations involved in PreK-12 education. The Foundation defines publicly funded public education to include:

- Schools that are governed by an elected board and receive full per-pupil operating grants from a provincial government.
- Associate or alternate schools in Saskatchewan.
- Historical high schools in Saskatchewan.
- Schools operated by First Nations Bands with funding from the federal government.

Common Items Funded

- Release time for teachers and non-teaching school-based personnel to collaborate on the study, plan activities, analyze results, write a report and share results at the Learning From Practice conference.
- Transcription, secretarial, technical, data entry, computer assistance and professional services directly related to the study.
- Travel, accommodations and expenses to meetings directly related to the study and the Learning From Practice conference. Electronic meetings and conference calls are encouraged.
- Purchase or rental based on lesser cost of materials, supplies, equipment, new technology, videos, video production or software directly related to the study if the items are not provided by the place of employment.
- Study team meeting and event costs, gifts to Elders, meetings for parents or community members and child care for the meetings. Use of school facilities is encouraged.

Restrictions

The McDowell Foundation is a charitable, non-profit organization and is therefore not able to sponsor projects that have as their goal the development of commercially viable products or programs from which the researcher(s) may benefit financially.

Funding

McDowell Foundation grants may be up to \$20,000 per research project. Budget items must be directly related to the costs of carrying out the study. In developing your Notice of Intent and grant proposal, please refer to the list of items commonly funded and not funded.

Common Items Not Funded

- Tuition fees for researchers enrolled in university graduate or undergraduate programs, post-doctorate salary, other educational program fees or salary while on leave from employment.
- Activities such as curriculum, program or instructional material development; piloting of teaching materials or methods; and the evaluation of programs, methods and materials unless identified as necessary for the study.
- Class trips or learning activities are not eligible unless clearly identified as a direct and integral part of the research being conducted.
- Class sets of learning materials, technology or software for students unless clearly identified as a direct and integral part of the research being conducted.
- The cost of printing and binding theses.
- Classes, workshops or courses designed to increase research skills.