2022-2023 Clinical Learning Environment Innovation Awards Program

The Cambridge Health Alliance Senior Leadership Team, Center for Professional and Academic Development, and Graduate Medical Education Committee announce the opening of the 2022-2023 Clinical Learning Environment Innovation Awards Program! The program aims to enlist graduate-level trainees in improving the clinical learning environment at CHA. All graduate level trainees in CHA-sponsored health professional education programs are eligible to apply for a grant up to $2000 to support initiatives that will improve patient experience of care and staff experience of caring.

In the 2022-2023 program, we are soliciting proposals for change projects in the following areas:

1) Improving patient and staff safety
2) Nurturing staff and provider engagement and well-being
3) Improving the patient and family experience of care
4) Improving patient care quality and reducing health disparities
5) Cultivating teamwork

Project selection criteria include:

- Expected contribution to the clinical learning environment for trainees, staff, patients and/or families in one of the five aims above
- Clarity of the proposal including a well-articulated aim, a practical change idea, and a viable measurement strategy that demonstrates how the change leads to improvement
- Feasibility of the project with a scope limited appropriately for available time and resources
- Evidence of engagement with key stakeholders and support from appropriate leaders
- Alignment with larger CHA institutional performance improvement priorities and efforts
- A plan for sustainability of the effort beyond the end of the academic year

Trainees are encouraged to collaborate across training programs, with multidisciplinary colleagues, and with patients and families. Trainees might consider using an Innovation Award to join an ongoing existing improvement initiative at CHA; reach out to faculty and program directors for project ideas. Though we recognize that the distinction between research and an improvement project can be nuanced, note that the aim of the proposal should be linked to making institutional change at CHA. Tools and resources related to systems improvement that may be helpful in conceptualizing your project are available on our CHA PI website. Grantees will be expected to participate in two workshops -- one on project evaluation and QI methods and the other on academic poster preparation will be available for all grantees. All grantees will submit posters to the CHA Academic Poster Session in 2023.
Deadlines and application instructions

- **Friday, August 19** - Draft proposals due
  - Submit your draft proposal using the Google Form linked here.
  - Three attachments are required with the proposal: a budget, a learner/mentor agreement contract, and a timeline. The learner/mentor agreement is not necessary until the final proposal is due. Templates for these three attachments are linked here:
    - Budget template
    - Learner/mentor agreement
    - Timeline template
  - Please note that CEO CLER funds cannot be used to purchase gift cards. Please reach out to Meghan Horan (cpd@challiance.org) for alternative suggestions. We also encourage applicants to think ahead regarding in-person events or food for meetings should CHA restrict in-person meetings due to COVID-19.
- **Friday, September 23** - Final proposals due
  - Modify draft proposal on Google Form to incorporate and respond to feedback from the Innovation Awards Program Selection Committee
  - Attach (1) a learner/mentor agreement, (2) a clear project timeline, and (3) an itemized budget.
- **Week of October 3** - Final notifications sent to applicants and faculty sponsors

Questions? Contact Meghan Horan in the Center for Professional and Academic Development (cpd@challiance.org)