

**Nepal Health Research Council**  
**Ramshah Path, BO Box 7626 Kathmandu**  
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**Request for Proposal: NHRC Provincial Research Grant**  
**June 21, 2017**

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**1. Introduction**

Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) was established in 1991 as an autonomous body to promote health research in Nepal. One of the main functions of the council is capacity development of national researchers in the area of health research methodology. The Council provides research grants to Nepalese researchers to enhance their capacities in conducting studies in areas related to national health priorities. The research grants are also expected to bridge the local evidence gap for health decision-making at national and sub-national level.

**2. Purpose**

The purpose of NHRC Provincial Research Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) is to support innovative research studies on Health and Medical Sciences from eligible Nepali citizens (as outlined in section 5 of this RFP).

**3. Grant Scope**

The research grant seeks proposal that will contribute to bridging the evidence gap in areas of health issues of national importance as well as successful implementation of Goal 3 of Sustainable Development Goals. Proposed research Proposal must be innovative and transformable, and must have the potential to impact on good health and well-being of the Nepalese population. The grant aims to seek research proposal on the following themes;

- Neonatal, maternal and child health, and nutrition
- Mental health and substance abuse
- Accident and injuries
- Health economics and health care financing including universal health coverage
- Health care delivery services including quality of care, patient safety, critical care
- Non communicable disease including its epidemiology, risk factors, prevention, treatment and control
- Healthy workplace
- Environmental and occupational health including climate change and health
- International travel and health
- Infection prevention and control
- Biomedical research including antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial stewardship, human genetics
- Communicable diseases including infectious and tropical diseases as well as neglected tropical diseases
- Gender, equity and social determinants of health
- Ayurveda and complementary medicine

- Essential medical products including pharmaceutical products, pharmacovigilance and rational use of drugs
- Population health including adolescent health, geriatric health, migrant health, urban health, rural health

#### **4. Duration**

The duration of the research study will be one year. All successful applicants must complete their research within 12 months after a signing grant agreement form the NHRC.

#### **5. Eligibility Criteria**

1. Only applicants from Nepal are eligible to apply.
2. Researchers must be affiliated with organization that conduct research for non commercial purpose.
3. Researchers should be a health worker/academia/health care provider/health care manager with academic background and professional experiences in Health Sciences, Medicine or Nursing.
4. Organizations involved in providing health services at local level are eligible to apply. Organizations involved must be functional at provincial level.
5. Organizations should not be legally convicted of participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud, money laundering, or been convicted of criminal offenses relating to professional conduct.
6. A project can only have one Principal Investigator who must be with any of the organizations mentioned above.
7. Applicant should not have a history of criminal record or convicted of criminal offence.
8. Applications must include all required information and attachments. Only complete applications will be considered for peer review.
9. Proposed ideas must be aligned with the Program Scope (See Section 3).
10. Every product created by the research shall be subject to the open access principle.
11. Researchers must comply with the National Ethics Guideline for Health Research of the NHRC.

#### **6. Application Instructions**

Application can be submitted electronically at the email ([grant.nhrc@gmail.com](mailto:grant.nhrc@gmail.com)) of Training and Capacity Development Section of the NHRC. Electronic application should be submitted in Word file format. Application should be submitted in English. Applicant should submit the following documents;

- Cover Letter
- Research proposal (See Annex I for the template)
- Financial Proposal (See Annex II for the template)
- CV of Principle researchers and team members
- A copy of citizenship of principle investigator
- A copy of registration certificate and tax clearance certificate of the organization

## 7. Review Process

The Capacity Development Section of the NHRC will verify that the proposals meet the formal criteria such as completeness, adequate formal presentation and submission within the deadlines. Proposals that do not meet these criteria will not be processed further. The independent Review Panel according to a peer review procedure will evaluate proposals. Upon completion of peer review, NHRC will receive a ranking list and ratings from the Review Panel. Selection decisions will be based on the ranking list and ratings received from the Panel.

## 8. Grant Amount

- A total up to maximum NRs 500,000/- (NRs five hundred thousand) is earmarked for each of the seven provinces and it will be distributed to top scoring proposals within each province.
- The grant amount to be provided will include ethical approval fee.
- The fund will be dispersed ONLY through the institution's account and not through the individual's bank account.

## 9. Evaluation Criteria

Research proposals will be judged against the following criteria;

- Is the proposed idea clearly articulated and justify its novelty?
- Is the potential impact of the proposed research important, both in terms of bridging the evidence gap and impact on policy?
- Is the project scientifically/technically sound and feasible within the timeline and proposed budget?
- Do the Principal Investigator and team has the skills to carry out the proposed research?
- Does the proposed idea have the potential to fundamentally transform how a health challenge is addressed?

## 10. Application Schedule

Complete application must be submitted by **Sunday, July 20, 2017 17:00**.

Key Deadlines	Events
July 20, 2017	Application deadline at 17:00
August 11, 2017	Notification of award
August 20, 2017	Execution of award

## 11. Correspondence

Any queries related to this RFP should be directed to the Training and Capacity Development Section, Nepal Health Research Council, Ramshah Path PO Box No 7626 Kathmandu, (Phone: +977 1-4254220/4227460), (Fax: +977 1-4262469/4268284), Email: grant.nhrc@gmail.com.

## Annex I: Template for Research Proposal

The research proposal should be structured around following template to fulfill criteria for success submission. The Proposal should be submitted in English, and should be a maximum of 10 pages (excluding cover page and the bibliography).

- **Cover Page**

Project title, Name of Principal Investigator and team members, affiliated organization and designation

- **Knowledge in the field of proposed research and the novelty or research project**

Set out the scientific background and basis of your project. Explain the need to perform research on the topic you propose, related to the *local* situation and current *national* and *international* development debates and policies. Please highlight the research gap your research will bridge and the novelty of the topic, approach or method you propose.

- **Research objectives/Hypothesis**

Specify the research hypotheses and the concrete objectives that you aim to achieve during the lifetime of the project. Explain why the issue looked at is of national importance.

- **Methodology**

Describe the strategies your project will use to implement the propose research. The strategy should include clear description of research methods by which the research goals are to be attended such as research design, sampling ,and data collection and analysis plan.

- **Potential Impact t of the Project**

Explain, through a short context analysis at local, national and international level, how the project (findings) will contribute to the achievement of the Goal 3 of the SDGs. Describe how the proposed research project is important in terms of bridging the evidence gap and impact on health policy and practice.

- **Project Schedule and Budget**

Outline major activities with the completion timeframe and estimated budget.

- **Bibliography**

The bibliography should follow the Vancouver referencing style. The bibliography must be part of the document, but does not count towards the 10-page restriction.

## Annex II: Template for financial proposal (budget breakdown)

The total amount of the Grant should include the processing fees of Ethical Review Board and also taxes if any.

Budget breakdown of the amount after deducting ethical approval processing fee and taxes should follow the following proportion:

<b>Budget Breakdown</b>	
<b>Expenditure Category</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
Human Resource (Investigators)	15%
Research Work	70%
Stationery/Photocopies	
Remuneration to Research Assistants (If any)	
Field work of the study (Per Diem)	
Travel costs for field	
Tools and checklist preparation	
Interventions and/or Investigations (If applicable)	
Management and coordination (Overhead/Institutional Cost)	10%
Miscellaneous (Unforeseen) Cost	5%

### Grant Disbursement:

Grant awarded will be disbursed through institutions they are affiliated to.