

IMPACT OF FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN VETERAN CARE

COMPETITION NUMBER: ATLAS-2425-03

GUIDELINES

Please refer to the [Atlas Institute research funding guidelines](#), which provide further information on eligibility, submission expectations, adjudication process, funding process, Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis Plus (SGBA Plus) requirements and requirements for engaging with persons with lived and living expertise.

IMPORTANT DATES

The following dates pertain to the full *Application for funding* submission:

Application open: October 28, 2024

Application close: December 9, 2024 at 12 p.m., Eastern time

Anticipated notice of decision: January 2025

DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC AREA

Research consistently shows that Family involvement in mental health care is linked to improved outcomes for Veterans ¹. While there are notable challenges and barriers to engaging Families in treatment, the majority of Veterans express a strong desire to include their Family members in their care ². Integrating Families into Veterans' treatment plans may serve as a compelling strategy to enhance treatment adherence and treatment success, while simultaneously addressing long-standing calls for greater Family involvement in care ³. As part of its mission to enhance the well-being of Veterans and their Families, the Atlas Institute recognizes the critical importance of understanding how Family involvement impacts Veteran care pathways. This understanding is essential for improving mental health outcomes and providing more comprehensive support for Veterans.

OBJECTIVES AND ELIGIBLE RESEARCH AREAS

This research funding opportunity will support a two-year project that aims to understand and address the involvement of Family members within Veteran care pathways. Research projects may focus on the experience and prevalence of Family involvement in Veteran care as well as investigating impacts and outcomes, within the Canadian context.

FUNDING AMOUNT

The total funding available for this opportunity is up to \$75,000 CAD.

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

- The Principal Applicant must be an independent researcher affiliated with a Canadian post-secondary institution whose appointment continues until the conclusion of the funding period;
- **OR** an individual affiliated with an Indigenous non-governmental organization in Canada with a research or knowledge mobilization mandate;
- **OR** an individual affiliated with a Veteran/Veteran Family non-governmental organization in Canada with a research or knowledge mobilization mandate.
- The Principal Applicant must have completed an SGBA Plus course with proof of certification from a Canadian institution.

HOW TO APPLY

The Atlas Institute uses an email application process. A complete application includes the full *Application for funding*, a completed *Conflict of interest* form, and an up-to-date CV, submitted as a single PDF to atlasresearch@theroyal.ca, referencing the competition number in the subject line of the email.

Checklist:

- Completed *Application for funding*
- [Conflict of interest form](#)
- CV of Principal Applicant

ADJUDICATION

Applicants have six weeks to submit the *Application for funding*. All applications for funding are adjudicated by an external Scientific Review Committee, based on standardized scoring criteria.

REFERENCES

1. Bolkan CR, Bonner LM, Campbell DG, Lanto A, Zivin K, Chaney E, et al. Family involvement, medication adherence, and depression outcomes among patients in veterans affairs primary care. *Psychiatric Services*. 2013;64(5):472-478.
2. Murray-Swank A, Glynn S, Cohen AN, Sherman M, Medoff DP, Fang LJ, et al. Family contact, experience of family relationships, and views about family involvement in treatment among VA consumers with serious mental illness. *Journal of Rehabilitation Research & Development*. 2007;44(6):801-811.
3. Meis LA, Glynn SM, Spont MR, Kehle-Forbes SM, Nelson D, Isenhardt CE, et al. Can families help veterans get more from PTSD treatment? A randomized clinical trial examining prolonged exposure with and without family involvement. *Trials*. 2022;23(1):243.