



CANO/ACIO RESEARCH GRANTS 2026

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Research Grant Eligibility
- 3.0 Funding Period and Granting of Grant Monies
- 4.0 Call for Proposals –General Instructions
- 5.0 Detailed Instructions for Completing the Application
- 6.0 Progress and Final Reports
- 7.0 Acknowledgement of Funding
- 8.0 Dissemination of Successful Research Grant Recipients and Results

1.0 Introduction

The Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology/Association Canadienne des Infirmières en Oncologie (CANO/ACIO) Board of Directors and Research Committee members invite you to apply for the 2026 research grant. This year the CANO/ACIO Board has allocated funds for **four research grants**, each valued at a maximum of **\$8,000 to be spent over 2 years**.

Completed submissions must be electronically received at the CANO/ACIO Head Office by **11:59pm (Eastern Time) on or before May 30, 2026**. Proposals received after that date will not be accepted. Successful recipients for the annual research grants will be announced during the annual CANO/ACIO conference.

The CANO/ACIO Research Grants were established to help build capacity for oncology nursing research across Canada. The establishment and ongoing funding of such grants demonstrates how the Board of Directors, in conjunction with members of the Research Committee, endorse such nursing activities.

The primary goal of these grants is to provide support for CANO/ACIO oncology nursing members to conduct and disseminate **clinical research** or a **quality improvement project** that will advance evidence-informed oncology nursing practice. Priority will be given to:

1. Clinically based oncology nurses with a project related to oncology nursing practice
2. Oncology nurses pursuing a graduate degree
3. Projects with the potential to promote evidence-informed oncology practice
4. Projects that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in cancer care

A scientific review panel, at arms-length from the CANO/ACIO Research Committee (except for the Scientific Review Panel Chair who will be a committee member), will conduct a peer-review process and adjudicate proposals based on established criteria and policies. The Scientific Review Panel Chair will report to the Director-at-Large for Research.

2.0 Eligibility

2.1 CANO/ACIO research grants are awarded to an **individual applicant**.

They will not be awarded to teams.

2.2 Both **novice and more experienced researchers** are encouraged to apply.

- Novice researchers (i.e., those without previous experience as a principal investigator) are expected to obtain mentorship for their projects. Graduate students should include a letter of support from their thesis/dissertation supervisor. Clinically based novice researchers should identify a colleague/collaborator with prior research experience and include in their submission a letter of support confirming willingness to serve as mentor.

2.3 The applicant **must be a current and ongoing CANO/ACIO member** (i.e., have held membership for at least the year prior to the Research Grant submission).

2.4 CANO/ACIO **Board of Directors are not eligible** to apply for grants. Research committee members are eligible to apply. All actual or potential review conflicts will be fairly and transparently managed by the Director-at-Large for Research and the Scientific Review Panel Chair according to established practices (such as Tri-council research granting agency practices) and the CANO Conflict of Interest policy. No panel member will review applications for which a conflict of interest exists (such as in the case of a close colleague or trainee).

3.0 Funding Period & Granting of Grant Monies

Successful grant recipients will be notified by September. The funding period ends two years after the receipt of the grant. The grant recipient(s) will be announced at the annual CANO/ACIO conference.

Arrangements will be made for transfer of funds to the grant recipient's organization, or the university where the applicant is studying or working (i.e., funds deposited into a research account). Grant recipients will advise the CANO/ACIO Head Office about the details for processing of the funds.

Funds will be transferred within six (6) weeks of CANO/ACIO Head Office receiving a copy of the certificate of approval from an established Research Ethics Board. In exceptional circumstances, research ethics approval is not required (e.g., study is a systematic review). If the proposal is for a quality improvement project and the setting does not require ethics approval, then a letter from the setting should indicate approval to conduct the study without formal ethics approval.

4.0 Detailed Instructions for Completing the Application

4.1 Cover Letter confirming an understanding of the conditions of the submission, signed by the applicant.

4.2 Abstract (not to exceed 250 words)

4.3 Proposal Narrative: The proposal narrative is not to exceed 8 single spaced typewritten pages (not including references) using a 12-point standard font such as Times New Roman or Arial and minimum of ¾" margins. Pages should be numbered. Please include each of the following components:

- Project Title
- Background
- Literature review
- Purpose
 - Research question or Quality Improvement objective
- Methods
 - Research/ Quality Improvement design
 - Sampling
 - Data collection and procedures
 - Analysis plan
 - Ethical considerations
 - Anticipated timeline
- Expected implications of findings for oncology nursing practice
- Dissemination plan

In-text citations and reference list should be formatted in a consistent manner, such as APA (7th edition).

4.4 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Considerations: (not to exceed 250 words) Provide a description of how EDI considerations will be integrated in your project or explain why EDI is not applicable to your project.

4.5 Budget: (not to exceed two pages, including figures and narrative justification).

A budget up to a maximum of \$8,000 should clearly align with the project plan. The expectations are that the funds will be used to either implement the project, publish the results and/or to cover the cost to present at the next Annual CANO conference.

*The funds cannot be used entirely for knowledge translation or dissemination, in the case of a completed project. If your project is completed, you are not eligible to apply.

Eligible items for inclusion in the total budget:

- Personnel: Includes paid personnel (including research assistants, student/trainees, consultants, clinical support) according to institutional contractual rates. Provide estimated total hours and salary rate (including benefits). Note: Applicant's salary reimbursement is not an eligible budget item.
- Supplies: Includes project-related photocopying, telephone, postage, computer access, paper, envelopes, data recording and storage supplies, etc.

- Equipment: Items with a unit cost greater than \$500 (justification and quotation must be provided). Up to \$2,000 is allowable for equipment.
- Software: Include the name, version number, and unit cost.
- Other expenses: Lab fees or supplies, lab assays, standardizing testing, transcription, or honoraria/reimbursement for study participants.
- Knowledge Translation: Up to \$2,000 is allowable for conference-related expenses and/or dissemination of findings

If this proposal represents supplementary funding to a larger project for which funding has not yet been secured, please provide a statement of: a) total cost of the larger project, b) additional sources of funding under consideration and, c) plans for conducting this element of the larger project should the supplementary funding not be secured. This will help the review panel determine whether this proposed project can be conducted independent of the outcome of the other funding requests.

4.6 Appendices

A. Required:

- Applicant's CV or resume. An academic CV is preferred. This may be in any format, but must include name, address and contact information, credentials, educational background, institutional affiliation and position, previous research funding (role, source and funding level), publications.
- For novice researchers, a letter confirming mentorship support for this project

B. Optional:

- Letters confirming organizational support or collaboration
- Questionnaires, instruments, consent forms, conceptual models, diagrams, brochures or other materials to be used in research project
- Certificate of Approval from Research Ethics Board (as applicable)

4.7 Submitted Package

All elements of the proposal are to be compiled, in the above sequence, into a single pdf file (e.g. through scanning or conversion to pdf from text documents – see 5.3 below). Please review your complete application carefully to ensure that all elements are included, correctly formatted and legible before submission.

5.0 Review Process

5.1 Applications that are incomplete or not prepared according to detailed instructions will not be reviewed.

- 5.2 The research grant application consists of an abstract, a proposal narrative (see 4.0 for components), a description of EDI considerations, a budget with justification, proof of CANO/ACIO membership and appendices.
- 5.3 Investigators must submit the completed application and all associated materials electronically by email to info@cano-acio.ca in a single pdf-formatted document. All required signatures should be scanned into the electronic submission, and the document optimized to a size suitable for email transmission¹.
- 5.4 Receipt of the application will be confirmed via e-mail. If no response has been received from CANO/ACIO within two weeks after the application deadline, contact the CANO/ACIO Head Office at info@cano-acio.ca
- 5.5 Elements of the submitted application proposal (e.g., abstract, literature review, purpose, methods, relevance to oncology nursing, EDI considerations, feasibility of the timeline, appendices) are evaluated for strengths and weaknesses by 2 independent reviewers. Then, the proposal is rated for scientific merit on a scale of 0 to 5 (see below). The budget is reviewed to ensure expenses are justified based on the science of the project. Funding is awarded to the proposal(s) ranked the highest based on number of grants being offered that year using the following descriptors for the scientific merit ratings:

Range	Descriptor
<input type="checkbox"/> 4.5 - 5	Outstanding
<input type="checkbox"/> 4.0 - 4.4	Excellent
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.5 - 3.9	Very good
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.0 - 3.4	Good
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.0 - 2.9	Average
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.0 - 1.9	Below average
<input type="checkbox"/> 0.0 - 0.9	Not acceptable or irrelevant to oncology nursing

6.0 Progress and Final Reports:

Annual progress report(s) are required for all funded projects. A final report of expenditures and a final scientific report must be submitted to the CANO/ACIO Head Office, within 60 days following the project-funding period (i.e., November immediately following the two-year funding period). If necessary, recipients may submit a request for a one-year extension. After the extension period, unexpended funds must be returned to CANO/ACIO Head Office.

The final report must also include a summary of results (i.e., 1 paragraph or abstract) suitable for posting online to promote dissemination of findings to practicing nurses and the lay public.

¹ See for example <https://helpx.adobe.com/ca/acrobat/using/optimizing-pdfs-acrobat-pro.html>

7.0 Acknowledgement of CANO/ACIO Funding:

Researchers **must acknowledge** CANO/ACIO funding in all publications and presentations arising from supported projects.

8.0 Dissemination of Successful Research Grant Recipients and Results:

CANO/ACIO is committed to the wide dissemination of research findings to support practice changes. A list of successful grant recipients and their topics will be posted on the CANO-ACIO website.

In addition to presenting your work in peer-reviewed conferences and publication, a summary of results (i.e. 1 paragraph or abstract) will be posted online and shared with the CANO/ACIO Board of Directors to promote dissemination of results from CANO/ACIO funded projects. Publications of project results in a peer-reviewed scientific or professional journal are expected and must acknowledge CANO/ACIO's support. Grant recipients are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract to the annual CANO/ACIO conference and publish their results in the Canadian Oncology Nursing Journal (CONJ).

We look forward to receiving your applications!

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