HDRN Canada
Request for Proposals: Summative Evaluation
December 12, 2024

Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada

Table of Contents

Invitation

[Health Data Research Network Canada (HDRN Canada)](#) invites proposals from organizations and/or individuals to undertake a summative evaluation of the activities of its first initiative, [Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Canadian Data Platform (CDP)](#), since its launch in April 2019. Proponents should have expertise in qualitative and quantitative evaluations and demonstrated experience and knowledge of research uses of health administrative data and related areas.

Overview

In 2019, HDRN Canada was awarded funding through a seven-year grant to build and operate the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Canadian Data Platform (CDP). The SPOR CDP, funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and in-kind contributions from federal, provincial and territorial partners, is focused on enabling high-quality, innovative, and multi-regional research that drives improvements in health and health equity.

HDRN Canada is a distributed pan-Canadian network of member organizations that either hold linkable health and health-related data for entire populations and/or have mandates and roles relating directly to access or use of those data. Member organizations include provincial, territorial, and pan-Canadian organizations that span all of Canada. Each member organization is actively involved in HDRN Canada's governance and operations and shares a commitment to our mission, vision and values. We facilitate simplified and timely access to multi-regional data, enabling researchers to address health challenges in a holistic and comprehensive way, leading to innovative solutions and amplifying Canada's international leadership in the health field.

We are also actively working to better support inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) through data use and supporting Indigenous-led data governance priorities that advance First Nations, Inuit, and Métis data sovereignty.

HDRN Canada is a unique organization that is working to alleviate various challenges with respect to multi-regional research. These challenges include data access, data analysis (including data organization and comparability), data governance, and how to incorporate principles of IDEA and Indigenous Data Sovereignty into everything we do.

For more information about HDRN Canada and its activities please refer to our website at https://www.hdrn.ca/ and strategic plan at https://www.hdrn.ca/about/strategic-plan/.

Scope of Work

HDRN Canada is seeking an external organization or individual to undertake a summative evaluation of its actions, activities and impact, under the SPOR CDP initiative, from April 2019 to March 31, 2025. This evaluation is expected to identify lessons learned from the development of the SPOR CDP within HDRN Canada and the impact of the initiative. The focus of the evaluation will be guided by HDRN Canada's five goals and success factors in our Strategic Plan. Additional focus areas will include:

- Describing the approach and activities led or supported by HDRN Canada across the outcomes in the Logic Model (see Appendix).
- Linking outputs/outcomes to HDRN Canada's overall goals and checking alignment with those of the SPOR CDP.
- Evaluation and impact of HDRN Canada activities (may include impact overview/impact typology/case studies/anticipated impacts).
- Understanding how HDRN Canada's distributed nature contributed to impact(s).
- Assessing the relationships, engagement, involvement, and impact of stakeholder groups (e.g., researchers, clinicians, decision-makers, members of the public, Indigenous Groups) in HDRN Canada activities.
- Assessing the value-add and impact of HDRN Canada in the multi-regional health data research field within Canada.
- Identifying the main lessons learned to ensure the sustainability of future activities or initiatives.

The evaluation will gather information from activities across HDRN Canada members including HDRN Canada Member Organizations, Working Groups, Teams, Committees, Public Advisory Council and Board of Directors, and engage with relevant external partners from across Canada and internationally. The successful applicant would be expected to work collaboratively with HDRN Canada's members, however, it is not an evaluation of individual partners, other than in their contributions to the overall goals of HDRN Canada.

The evaluation is also expected to speak to partner needs, including findings that are relevant to public partners (e.g., public roles in HDRN Canada), findings that are relevant to HDRN Canada's research community (e.g., research institutes, academic partners, patients, and members of the public) and identify impacts specific to Federal/Provincial/Territorial partners.

Submitted proposals must deliver an evaluation report over a four-month timeframe. There is no fixed approach to the summative evaluation, though we would anticipate a combination of qualitative and quantitative information. We will work with the selected applicant to agree on a final, detailed evaluation plan that is aligned with the key HDRN Canada goals and success factors in the Strategic Plan.

Requirements and Assessment

Proposals will be assessed according to the evaluation criteria specified below. Proposals must provide the following information (evaluation weight shown in brackets):

1. Develop a tailored evaluation approach (40%). This should include:
    a. Clear linkage between the proposed evaluation framework and the five goals and success factors in HDRN Canada's Strategic Plan and Logic Model (see Appendix).
    b. Specify a plan to connect with HDRN Canada and other SPOR-funded entities / organizations engaged in patient-oriented research activities across Canada.
    c. Identify proposed methods to capture both qualitative and quantitative information.

d. Identify an approach to synthesize information and provide meaningful insights on the impacts of HDRN Canada and the work it has supported, including developing impact stories from HDRN Canada activities.

2. Demonstrate a strong track record in evaluating health data and related research initiatives or programs of similar scope and complexity (25%). This should include:
   a. Demonstrated knowledge and familiarity with HDRN Canada, including its member organizations.
   b. Demonstrated understanding of CIHR's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR).
   c. Demonstrated knowledge and familiarity with the Canadian health research and health data landscapes, including previous public reports and recommendations.
   d. Demonstrated experience in program evaluation.
   e. Demonstrate awareness of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility topics.
   f. Demonstrate awareness of Indigenous networks and processes and knowledge of Indigenous-led data governance priorities that advance First Nations, Inuit, and Métis data sovereignty.
   g. Demonstrated inclusion of partner engagement in the evaluation process.

3. Develop an evaluation report that speaks to HDRN Canada and partners needs (25%), which should include:
   a. Findings that are relevant to public partners (e.g., public roles in HDRN Canada).
   b. Findings that are relevant to HDRN Canada's research community (e.g., research institutes, academic partners, patients, and members of the public).
   c. Identify impacts specific to Federal/Provincial/Territorial partners.
   d. Identify opportunities and lessons learned for HDRN Canada
   e. Identify whether there are gaps in the Logic Model, particularly if changes are required to the performance indicators to best track and evaluate HDRN Canada's performance.

4. Anticipated budget and timeline (10%) for the proposed work:

a. Identify available capacity to undertake the work.

b. Identify the anticipated cost of undertaking the evaluation (not to exceed $75,000).

c. Demonstrate how the evaluation will meet HDRN Canada timelines.

Key Dates

- December 12, 2024 – Request for Proposals opens.
- January 8, 2025 – Questions about the RFP to be submitted to HDRN Canada at info@hdrn.ca
- TBD depending on interest – HDRN Canada will host a one-hour virtual meeting to review submitted questions and answer any other questions that arise.
- January 17, 2025 – RFP closes
- January 24, 2025 – All RFP applicants will be contacted about decisions by the end of the day.
- February 4-6, 2025 – Top three selected proposals are invited to give a 30-minute presentation to the evaluation review panel (with an extra 30 minutes for questions).
- February 11, 2025 – Successful applicant will be identified.
- February 17, 2025 – Evaluation phase begins.
- July 1st, 2025 – Evaluation report to be submitted to HDRN Canada leadership.

How to apply

Proposals should be submitted in English to info@hdrn.ca by January 17, 2025.

Questions about this RFP should be submitted to info@hdrn.ca by January 8, 2025.

Appendix

The five goals in the HDRN Canada [Strategic Plan 2021-2026](#):

- Develop and Improve Services and Supports for Data Access
- Diversify and Harmonize Data, and Support Innovative and Privacy-Sensitive Data Use
- Establish and Strengthen Partnerships and Provide Leadership for Evolving Data Practices
- Strengthen Data Use to Improve Equity, and Support Indigenous-led Data Sovereignty
- Ensure Purposeful and Ongoing Public and Community Involvement

The two success factors include:

- Cohesive Network with Effective and Sustainable Operations
- Supportive and Engaged Legislative and Policy Ecosystem and Community of Data Users

HDRN Canada's Logic Model

Vision & Mission	*Vision: Data across Canada drive improvements in health and health equity.* *Mission: Bring together people and organizations across Canada for transformative and world-leading health data use.*				
Strategic Goals	1) Develop and Improve Services and Supports for Data Access	2) Diversify and Harmonize Data, and Support Innovative and Privacy-Sensitive Data Use	3) Establish and Strengthen Partnerships and Provide Leadership for Evolving Data Practices	4) Strengthen Data Use to Improve Equity, and Support Indigenous-led Data Sovereignty	5) Ensure Purposeful and Ongoing Public and Community Involvement
Enablers	• Cohesive network with effective and sustainable operations • Supportive and engaged legislative and policy ecosystem and community of data users • Human resources and talent (e.g., Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) and Indigenous data sovereignty experts, policy and process development, linkage experts, data access coordinators, privacy experts, etc.) • Materials, equipment and technical infrastructure (e.g., communications tools, data collection and tracking tools, systems for data harmonization, etc.) • External and internal partners/experts (e.g., data expansion, data sharing agreements, funding agreements, etc.)				
Activities	• Operate the Data Access Support Hub (DASH) • Produce catalogues of datasets, algorithms, and other resources • Provide end-to-end support to researchers and other data users	• Expand data available for request • Harmonize data and create standardized terminology • Develop and share knowledge of approaches to distributed analytics, and create technical infrastructure for that	• Establish and maintain a collaborative culture with partners and stakeholders • Develop and support the Health Data Research (HDR) Alliance • Develop supports and appropriate privacy and compliance guidance	• Develop and deliver HDRN Canada's IDEA Strategy • Develop and deliver HDRN Canada's activities to support Indigenous-led data sovereignty	• Develop and deliver HDRN Canada's Public Engagement plan
Outputs	• DASH • Data access requests • Data Asset Inventory (DAI) and Algorithm Inventory • Enhancements and automated processes for data access	• Expansion of DAI and Algorithm Inventory • Systems and technical infrastructures for data harmonization • Training and other supports for advanced distributed analytics and emerging data practices	• Active strategic engagement and partnership agreements • HDR Alliance • Policy briefs, recommendations, and best practice documents	• Decisions and initiatives that are committed to, advance, and prioritize IDEA and Indigenous data sovereignty • Data-related collaborative and trust-building efforts	• Public Advisory Council (PAC) • Purposeful public engagements • HDRN Canada's public forum
Immediate Outcomes	• Improved capacity to access multi-regional data and research, including expansion of administrative, clinical, social, and real world data assets • Increased adoption of HDRN Canada assets and leading multi-regional data practices • Increased partnerships with other research entities and health data-related organizations, the public, and Indigenous communities • Increased capacity for local and multi-regional projects that advance IDEA-informed research and Indigenous-led data sovereignty				
Intermediate Outcomes	• Evidence-based decision-making in health systems influenced by increased research and production of knowledge using multi-regional data • Impactful engagement among all partners and stakeholders that improves evidence-based decision-making • Improved evidence-informed policies and advanced data practices that help realize the principles of IDEA and Indigenous-led data sovereignty • Capacity built to support a sustainable network				
Ultimate Outcomes	• HDRN Canada achieves its vision of improved health outcomes and health equity and mission of bringing people and organizations together • HDRN Canada is recognized as a world leader in multi-regional data access and data harmonization practices				

Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada