



2S/LGBTQ+
HEALTH HUB

Call for Community, Student & Professional Trainees (2026-27)

SUMMARY OF THE 2S/LGBTQ+ HEALTH HUB

<https://2slgbtqhealthhub.ca/>

Funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub **tackles a major training and capacity gap in intersectional and community-informed 2S/LGBTQ+ health and community interventions, including interventions for Indigenous, Black, and other People of Colour queer communities**. Our innovative 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub, which fosters opportunities for asynchronous and synchronous learning and skill development, provides a suite of multi-modal training, engagement, and mentoring opportunities. Our 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub includes focused training related to the intersectional, social, cultural, and structural determinants of health, including interventions that address: a) research training, practice and evaluation in racialized and Indigenous 2S/LGBTQ+ health inequities and strengths; b) moving research evidence to policy and practice; and c) supporting non-profit and other sectors working to better 2S/LGBTQ+ health in Canada. This **Call for Applications (2026-27)** will form the fifth annual cohort of Trainees for the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub. **This year we expect to fund at least 20 trainees**. For information, we received over 70 applications last cycle and funded 20 trainees (approximately 35% success level). We plan to offer one additional round of trainee applications next year.

KEY PROGRAM DETAILS

ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria, as of September 1, 2026, to be eligible:

- **Student trainee:** registered graduate student or student in a registered healthcare provider program,
- **Community or Professional staff trainee:** employed in a government (municipal, provincial/territorial, federal), health organization (hospital, clinic, health authority), or community-based organization (grassroots, formal not-for-profit, etc.).

Trainees who have previously received funding from the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub are ineligible to re-apply. Postdoctoral fellows are not eligible to be Health Hub Fellows but can join the Hub as mentors.

FUNDING :

A total of \$10,000 in funding will be provided to each Trainee in recognition for participation in all activities and components. Students will be paid the \$10,000 as a scholarship. For Community or Professional Fellows, the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub will provide additional funding to cover required employer contributions on top of \$10,000 in salary funding.

DURATION :

September 1st to March 31st (7 months). Synchronous sessions will generally be held on Fridays from 12:00noon-2:00pm Eastern (keeping in mind time zone differences across Canada). Trainees must also attend an in-person 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub gathering during the program; all travel and accommodation costs will be covered. This year's in-person event will be held in Toronto, Ontario from October 29-November 1, 2026, in conjunction with the Community-Based Research Centre Summit.

APPLICATION & LETTER OF SUPPORT DEADLINE :

Applications must be submitted online by May 31st via <https://airtable.com/appCBia5O9u2UgwbY/pag5OFIAZthGR9qFT/form>

Letters of Support must also be uploaded online by May 31st via <https://airtable.com/appCBia5O9u2UgwbY/pagQ22AeYwMqKJCdH/form>

TRAINING COMPONENTS

The various components of this training program will connect 2S/LGBTQ+ health researchers, trainees, and professionals to develop a network of scholars and practitioners that are experts in community-based interventions. The five key components of the training include:

- Monthly synchronous online seminars for Trainees (generally, these will be held Fridays from 12:00pm-2:00pm Eastern)
- Open Lectures
- Training Modules
- Mentorship
- Experiential Learning Opportunities/Placements

We expect Trainees will spend between 150-250 hours over the course of the program, which includes the multi-day in-person 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub gathering and experiential learning placement.

Trainees will also network with the extensive network of the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub. Trainees will be matched with at least one 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub Mentor at the beginning of the program. Trainees will be asked to collaborate with their Mentor(s) to develop an individual learning plan with customized experiential learning objectives. In the event that Mentors are themselves currently leading or supporting projects broadly addressing 2S/LGBTQ+ health, Trainees may collaborate with their Mentors to develop a plan to participate in specific activities (embedded in one's own workplace or elsewhere) that address their learning objectives.

Our cross-cutting commitment to intersectionality emphasizes the need to consider social justice-based approaches, complex interactions between structures of power and oppression, and interconnected aspects of individual and group identity and social location. This focus allows for richer understandings of inequities, while providing a pedagogical approach to learning that will help illuminate and interpret experiences of stigma across the life course and complex systems of power, penalty, and privilege.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS (FROM APPLICANT)

To be submitted online here

(<https://airtable.com/appCBia5O9u2UgwbY/pag5OFIAZthGR9qFT/form>) by May 31st. Of note, an additional 25% space/length is provided for all documents submitted in French.

- **Cover Page** (complete online, see Appendix A)
- **EDI Self-Identification Form** (complete online, see Appendix B)
- **Applicant Letter** (2-page maximum in English; 2.5-pages maximum in French):
 - Describe your interest in this training program, your background and experience that you are bringing to the training program, and your area of study/expertise as relevant to 2S/LGBTQ+ health
 - Thinking about equity, diversity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility, as well as intersectionality, please provide a personal narrative statement describing differences in geography, race, ethnicity, sexual and gender diversity, Indigeneity, class position, disability, religion, and other areas of equity that may be reflected in your social location or areas of scholarship, and the track-record of your work. We understand there may be a multitude of reasons people don't want to locate themselves. We are accepting of different levels of outness. All information provided will be kept in strict confidence. It will only be seen by Health Hub Staff and Reviewers as a part of the adjudication process, and everyone will be bound by Confidentiality Agreements.
 - Describe your past experience in knowledge mobilization, with any relevant examples or activities related to the focus of the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub that you have engaged in. Please include plans for how you will share with others your training experiences and activities, especially how this will be brought back to your organization and networks.

- Identify any of your prior, ongoing, or planned community or stakeholder engagement, especially as relevant to the focus of the 2S/LGBTQ Health Hub and this training.
- **Most Significant Contributions** (1-page maximum in English; 1¼-page maximum in French)
 - Please provide information regarding your most significant contributions (maximum of 5) as they relate to your application. Please describe the contribution, the target audience, the significance, the impacted groups, and your role. Contributions can take the form of:
 - Community or professional service, leadership, etc.
 - Publications, presentations, intellectual property, other knowledge mobilization activities, etc.;
 - Awards, degrees, credentials, etc.;
 - Clinical/professional practice, policy or program development, workshops, etc.;
 - Specialized training, strategic employment positions, etc.;
- **Applicant CV/Resume** (4-page maximum in English, 5-page maximum in French)
 - Any format is acceptable
- **Optional: Special Circumstances** (1-page maximum in English; 1¼-page maximum in French)
 - We acknowledge that certain circumstances may affect an applicant’s record of achievement. Applicants are encouraged to confidentially explain any personal circumstances in order to allow for a fair assessment of their application.
 - Identify any circumstances that might have delayed or interrupted your academic and/or career advancement, research, dissemination of results, training, etc. Common examples of an interruption/delay are parental leave, child rearing, illness, disability, cultural, community or family responsibilities, socio-economic factors, access to research/leadership opportunities or relocation of your research environment.

This year we are also accepting video or audio submissions in lieu of the personal statement, significant contributions and special circumstances documents. Time limits are as follows:

- Personal Statement – 10 minutes
- Significant Contributions – 5 minutes
- Special Circumstances (optional) – 5 minutes

If you would like to submit a video or audio submission, please do so by sharing a link to a shared folder (Google Drive, OneDrive, Dropbox, etc.) with all three files in the same folder – OR you can share one file with all three audio/video portions included so long as there are identifiable section “headers” or however you might want to indicate.

APPLICATION COMPONENT (FROM SUPERVISOR)

One Supervisor Letter of Support (2-page maximum in English, 2.5-pages in French, required). For student Trainees, this would be your academic program supervisor, program advisor, or department head. For community or professional staff Trainees, this would be your employment supervisor. This Letter of Support must be uploaded online here

<https://airtable.com/appCBia5O9u2UgwbY/pagQ22AeYwMqKJCdH/form> by May 31st.

The Letter of Support must:

- Describe why you think the applicant would be a good candidate for this training
- Detail any support(s) to be provided to applicant (e.g. space, environment, mentorship, training, resources) from you and your organization
- Confirm eligibility of the Trainee (e.g. enrolment as a graduate student or healthcare student, or currently employed as of September 1st) and level of protected time that will be provided to participate in training activities (e.g. number of hours per week). Please confirm that no other commitments will be scheduled on Fridays between 12:00noon - 2:00pm Eastern so that they can attend the online synchronous session.
- If applicable for community/professional staff, confirm the rate (% or \$ value) of mandatory employer contributions required on-top of the \$10,000 for salary

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

- Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by at least two different independent reviewers from the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub. Initial scores will be used to determine which applications are discussed at a full meeting of the Awards Committee. The committee will produce a final ranked list of applicants recommended for funding, balancing diversity based on the narrative statements regarding EDIA and intersectionality provided in the Applicant Letters.
- Applications will be evaluated on their background, experience, and past and potential contributions. All of the following will be evaluated as a whole: Applicant Letter (including the personal narrative statement regarding EDIA and intersectionality), Most Significant Contributions statement, Applicant CV/resume, and Letter of Support. Reviewers will consider any Special Circumstances shared by the applicant in their evaluation.
- Each reviewer will provide a single numeric score using the [CIHR review scale](#) as well a qualitative constructive narrative of the strengths and weaknesses of the application, which can be provided back to applicants to assist in strengthening future funding applications. Reviewers' numeric scores will be averaged, and where a discrepancy of >1 exists an additional review will be conducted. Applications with an average score in the Fair or Poor range will not be discussed by the committee:

Descriptor	Range	Outcome
Outstanding	4.5 – 4.9	May be eligible – will be discussed by the Committee
Excellent	4.0 – 4.4	
Very good	3.5 – 3.9	
Fair	3.0 – 3.4	Not eligible – will not be discussed by the Committee
Poor	0.0 – 2.9	

- We prioritize applications from 2S/LGBTQ+ people, Indigenous and Two-Spirit people, people racialized as non-white, women, trans and non-binary people, disabled people, French-language speakers, and others who are systemically marginalized in Canada. We will also ensure representation of Trainees across provinces/territories.
- We will use information provided in the EDI Self-Identification form to conduct equalization of successful applications to ensure that underrepresented groups have access to the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub proportional to other groups. Equalization means that there are a sufficient number of highly ranked applications in specific groups to ensure that the number funded in each category is at least equal to their proportion of applications submitted.
- We expect to inform applicants of our decisions by the end of July

QUESTIONS?

Is there something you would like more clarity about? Do you have any questions?

Please contact Anna.Penner@utoronto.ca.

Appendix A – 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub 2026-27 Trainee Application Cover Page

Please complete this form online:

<https://airtable.com/appCBia5O9u2UgwbY/pag5OFIAZthGR9qFT/form>

Applicant:

Name:	
Email:	
Organization Name:	
Organization Department:	
Position as of September 2026: (e.g. Masters/PhD student, professional role/employment job title)	
Scholarship or Fellowship Funding: For student trainee applications, list any other funding held during the Fellowship, please detail the award amount (\$), duration, and source.	

Have you applied previously to be a 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub Trainee?

Yes

No

Are you applying as a Student or a Community/Professional Trainee?

Student

Community/Professional

Supervisor Name:	
Supervisor Email:	
Supervisor Organization Name:	
Supervisor Organization Department:	
Supervisor Position Title:	

Required Attachments:

Applicant Letter Most Significant Contributions Applicant CV/Resume

Optional Attachment:

Special Circumstances

Appendix B –Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Self-Identification Form

We are asking all candidates to complete this self-identification survey, which allows us to understand who the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub is reaching, and to increase equitable and inclusive access. The personal information you provide in this questionnaire will only be used or disclosed for the following purposes:

- Implementation of application decision equalization measures to ensure that underrepresented groups have access to the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub proportional to other groups;
- Evaluation of 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub outreach and potential biases within selection processes; and
- Design and delivery of future calls for trainees, evaluation processes, learning materials, and reporting.

Questionnaire Requirement and Provision of Personal Information

The completion of the self-identification questionnaire is required for your application to be considered. If you do not want to provide information about one or more aspects of your identity, you can complete the survey by choosing the option – “I prefer not to answer”. Selecting “I prefer not to answer” to one or more of the questions will not prevent your application from being considered. However, you will not be considered in equalization processes designed to include historically underrepresented groups.

Privacy Practices

The personal information you provide will be kept confidential and will not be used or disclosed for any other purposes without your consent or as may be required by law.

Confirmation and Privacy Rights

By submitting your information, you are confirming that you have read and understood this Privacy Notice Statement and provide your personal information in accordance with it. For more information about our privacy practices, please contact Anna.Penner@utoronto.ca. If you believe your personal information has been mishandled or have concerns about our privacy practices, you can file a complaint with the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub Nominated Principal Investigator Daniel.Grace@utoronto.ca.

Identity

What is your year of birth?

(YYYY)

I prefer not to answer.

Do you identify as an Indigenous person?

Yes, as an Indigenous person from Canada (i.e. First Nations, Métis, or Inuit/Inuk).

Yes, as an Indigenous person from outside Canada (i.e. Saami, Maori, Igbo, etc.).

Do you identify as Two-Spirit?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say.

No

I prefer not to answer.

Which terms best describe your gender identity? Please select all that apply.

Agender

Bigender/Multigender

Cisgender

Genderfluid

Genderqueer

Man

Non-Binary

Questioning

Trans

Woman

I prefer to identify my gender as:

I prefer not to answer.

Which terms best describe your sexual orientation? Please select all that apply.

Asexual

Bisexual

Gay

Pansexual

Lesbian

Queer

Straight

I prefer to identify my sexual orientation as:

I prefer not to answer.

Are you an intersex person? Intersex is a term for people born with a variation of sex characteristics. There are many different intersex variations.

Yes

No

Unsure

I prefer not to answer.

Which terms best describe your race or ethnicity? Please select all that apply.

Black

East/Southeast Asian

Indigenous

Latina/Latino/Latinx/Latine

Middle Eastern

Mixed Race

South Asian

White

I prefer to identify my racial identity as:

I prefer not to answer.

Do you identify as a racialized person?

Yes

No

I prefer not to answer.

Were you born in Canada?

Yes

No

I prefer not to answer.

If you were not born in Canada, which best describes your status in Canada? Please select all that apply.

A Canadian citizen

A temporary resident (with a current work or study permit)

A landed immigrant/permanent resident

A refugee claimant

My status is not included in this list. My status is: _____

I prefer not to answer.

What language(s) did you first learn at home in childhood and still understand? Please separate multiple languages with a semicolon.

What language(s) do you speak most often at home? Please separate multiple languages with a semicolon.

Do you identify as disabled/a person with a disability?

The Accessible Canada Act defines disability as “any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment—or a functional limitation—whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person’s full and equal participation in society.”

Yes

No

I prefer not to answer.

Geographic Demographics

Where do you live?

Alberta
British Columbia
Manitoba
New Brunswick
Newfoundland & Labrador
Northwest Territories
Nova Scotia
Nunavut
Ontario
Prince Edward Island
Quebec
Saskatchewan
Yukon
I prefer not to answer.

Which best describes the environment you currently live in?

Very large urban population centre (500,000+ people)
Large urban population centre (100,000-499,999 people)
Medium population centre (30,000-99,999 people)
Small population centre (1000-29,999 people)
Rural area (less than 1000 people)
I prefer not to answer.

Please share any feedback you have for the 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub on this form as we revise our own processes.