

# 2019 Grants Agenda

## Research Priorities

The Grants Program will focus on supporting the WSIB's Strategic Plan:

- 1) Make Ontario a safer place to work
- 2) Improve return to work and recovery outcomes
- 3) Meet our customers' needs and expectations

The Grants Program is committed to supporting the WSIB's strategic priority of being financially responsible and accountable through the operating practices of the program on an ongoing basis.

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that align to the priority areas and topics of interest identified below.

### Make Ontario a safer place to work

#### Priority 1: Strengthen integration, accountability and effectiveness of the occupational health and safety system

Evaluate the impact of presumptive mental health legislation on recovery and return to work outcomes

Identify strategies to increase primary care providers knowledge of occupational medicine in support of the occupational health and safety system

Examine best practices in early detection and reporting of occupational diseases

#### Priority 2: Develop people-centric health and safety programs that encourage healthy workplaces

Evaluate the effectiveness of non-financial incentives for employers to implement occupational health and safety practices

Identify strategies to effectively engage Small Businesses for the implementation of occupational health and safety best practices

#### Priority 3: Raise awareness of rights, obligations and best practices to empower proactive health and safety planning

Identify strategies and / or resources to increase general awareness about compensation policies and rights among people who are vulnerable

### Improve return to work and recovery outcomes

#### Priority 4: Provide customized return to work services to cases that need the most support

Evaluate the effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions to support return to work for people with secondary psychological entitlement

Identify strategies to assess the cognitive behavior and/or demands of work and how these assessments can inform return to work planning after mTBI

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Identify strategies to support return to work and recovery for people following mTBI

**Priority 5: Improve access and quality of care for people with illnesses and people with physical and/or mental stress injuries**

Evaluate the effectiveness of peer-support groups and / or resiliency training for people who experience PTSD, chronic mental stress, and / or mental health disorders

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Evaluate the effectiveness of emerging evidence-based treatments to address mental health and facilitate return to work

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Evaluate the effectiveness and / or risks of various nursing intervention models for optimizing return to work and recovery

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Identify strategies to improve access to care through collaboration in remote and underserved communities

**Priority 6: Improve sustainable employment outcomes**

Identify strategies to support return to work and recovery for occupations that are at greater risk for repeat psychological trauma (i.e., first responders and hospital workers)

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Identify symptom based treatment strategies and stages of progression for work reintegration following mTBI

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Leverage emerging technology to facilitate health care assessment, recovery and successful return to work (i.e. wearable technology, exoskeleton, activity trackers)

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Evaluate the efficacy and application of diagnostic, detection and adjudication methodologies for mTBI

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Assess current economic trends to predict future claim types and volumes

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**Meet our customers' needs and expectations**

**Priority 7: Make our services more convenient and compassionate through quicker decision-making based on the best available evidence and faster payment**

Identify specific opportunities to improve the worker experience in accessing and navigating the compensation system and how they may be implemented to improve services

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Evaluate the impact of workplace culture on mental stress injuries

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