



What is the Hope for Tomorrow Dementia Research Catalyst Grant?

The Hope for Tomorrow Dementia Research Grant is a one-time funding opportunity to advance dementia research in Alberta. Applications were open to each of the three neuroscience institutes located at the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge. All monies awarded must be matched by a funding partner to double amount, ensuring significant investment to dementia research over a two-year timeframe.

How much money is being invested?

The Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories will be investing one million dollars to researchers in Alberta. All monies awarded must be matched by a partner organization which translates to an investment of two million dollars from the seed money of the Hope for Tomorrow grant.

Why are you calling it “Hope for Tomorrow”?

A tag line associated with our Society is Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow. Help for Today refers to the support and education given to individuals living with disease, which includes their families and care partners. Hope for Tomorrow refers to the efforts to find treatments and a cure. Calling the grant – Hope for Tomorrow Dementia Research Catalyst Grant not only represents hope for those living with dementia, but it also ties the investment to the Alzheimer Society as the primary funder.

Why is this one-time-only funding?

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Research Committee, wanted to publicly support Alberta researchers and recognize and honor the request of many donors to continue to fund dementia research to find a cause and cure. There is a finite amount of donated dollars in our research reserve, therefore, as stewards of the dollars, the Board of Directors approved a one-time infusion of dollars for the Grant at this time.

What are you hoping to accomplish through this investment?

Our goal is to fund research that will lead to understanding the causes of dementia and ultimately, find a cure. We also want to ensure the research being done in Alberta is recognized and funded as much as possible. As an organization, we are passionate about providing ‘Hope for Tomorrow’ for those living with dementia and through this investment we continue to highlight the ongoing need for more research in finding the cause and determining a cure. AS AB/NT is committed to furthering dementia research, thanks to the generosity of Alberta’s donors, who have entrusted us to steward their donations appropriately.

Where did the money come from?

The money for the Hope for Tomorrow Grant was raised through donations to the Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories. Donations to fund research come through fundraising events, bequests and planned gifts, and through our general donations.

Some of our donors specify that their contributions fund research, and the net proceeds from our annual Alzheimer Society Face Off Pro-Am hockey tournament fund the Alberta Alzheimer Research Program, a collaborative partnership with Alberta Innovates – Alberta Prion Research Institute. Our research funds are segregated and held in interest generating investment accounts.

What other research initiatives are funded by AS AB/NT?

In addition to the Hope for Tomorrow Dementia Research Catalyst Grant and the Alzheimer Research Program, the Society invests dollars to support national research through the Alzheimer Society Research Program, contributes dollars to post doctoral fellowships and symposiums through Campus Alberta Neuroscience, has invested half a million dollars over three years to Brain Canada, and supports several quality-of-life projects and initiatives throughout the province. Over the past six years, the Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories had invested over \$5 million dollars in support of dementia research.

What makes the Hope for Tomorrow Grant different than the Alberta Alzheimer Research Program that is already in place?

Most importantly, the Hope for Tomorrow Dementia Research Catalyst Grant supports programs and projects that do not duplicate any efforts currently undertaken at the provincial and national level. The grant criteria outlined included:

- Must be researchers associated with one of the three neuroscience institutes in Alberta
- The project must identify new opportunities

How were the successful projects chosen?

The Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories asked the Alberta Prion Research Institute (APRI) to act as the grant administrators and a process that included a peer review of the applicants was initiated.

A panel, comprised of internationally acclaimed dementia researchers, with expertise and experience adjudicating research projects including multi-disciplinary proposals, reviewed each of the applicant proposals. Once the appropriate correspondence and responses were complete, APRI provided advice to the research committee of the board on the review adjudication and follow up comments to applicants' responses. APRI agreed with assessments of the review committee and supported recommendations put forward. Based on those recommendations, the research committee accepted the findings and recommended that the Board of Directors approve the recommendation of the peer review panel at its March 17, 2018 meeting.

Why is this grant only for Alberta researchers?

We believe that we have dedicated and passionate dementia researchers here in the province of Alberta and we wanted to provide them an additional opportunity to receive funding for their work. The criteria for the Hope for Tomorrow Grant stipulates that the research cannot duplicate existing funded projects so we challenged the Neuroscience Institutes to find new and exciting projects to be funded through this Grant.

As well, we recognize the need to ensure research into finding a cause and cure. With the recent release of the Alberta Dementia Strategy and Action Plan, we know one of the actions is to create a framework and plan for supporting research in the province. We believe the Hope for Tomorrow Grant also demonstrates our support for the strategy and the actions outlined.

How is the Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories funded?

The Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories is a not-for-profit organization that relies primarily on fundraising and donations to support the work we do. Based on our 2016/17 audited financial statements – 87% of our revenue comes from fundraising and donation and 13% is from a government grant to support our First Link[®] program.

Thirteen per cent of total expenses for the organization are administration and general costs to support our work in programs and services, fund development and research.

Our services are provided free of charge. We actively fundraise and look for alternative sources of funding to ensure individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and their care partners have the supports and services they require as they face the disease.

What's your annual research budget?

Our annual research budget is dependant on our existing commitments. This year we are contributing to:

- Alberta Alzheimer Research Program (AARP), administered by the Alberta Prion Research Institute to fund a variety of research projects (both bio-medical and psycho-social) selected through a rigorous peer review process.
- Campus Alberta Neuroscience (CAN) collaboration with Brain Canada and support for the international conference on *Promoting Healthy Brain Aging and Preventing Dementia: Research and Translation*.
- the Alzheimer Society Research Program
- and, the Hope for Tomorrow Dementia Research Catalyst Grant.