BORN Data Access Grant

The Association of Ontario Midwives (AOM) has received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health to support midwife-led research in Ontario. The BORN Data Access supports the creation of a body of literature which focuses on and supports the midwifery approach to care.

The AOM is committed to inclusive and equitable funding practices as part of its commitments to the restoration and renewal of Indigenous midwifery and the advancement of racial equity in the profession. We welcome and encourage applications from individuals who reflect the broad diversity of our community including Indigenous, Black and racialized midwives and midwifery students.

The maximum award is $15 000.

Eligible Projects

The purpose of this grant is to foster research by mitigating the high cost of access to the BORN Ontario data set. Funded projects are 36-month (non-renewable) grants. You may re-apply for the same research project if you have received notification that your previous application was not successful. Applicants may apply to more than one grant stream and be named on multiple applications. However, **the same grant proposal cannot be submitted to more than one stream**—it must be submitted to only one.

If you are uncertain about which grant stream to apply to contact researchgrants@aom.on.ca

Eligible Applicants

Applicants of the BORN Data Access Grant must be a registered midwife, student midwife or Aboriginal midwife working under the exemption clause *and be either.*

1. **Mentored:** Currently enrolled in a master's or PhD program or within five years of completing a master's or PhD. Trainees must work under the supervision of a mentor (an individual who is autonomous regarding their research activities and has an academic or research appointment), who has experience with the analysis of BORN data and/or expertise in biostatistics or statistical science. You can find more information about finding a mentor here.

2. **Career:** A registered or Aboriginal midwife working under the exemption clause (8.3a of the Midwifery Act 1991 of Ontario), who has an academic or research affiliation with an educational or community-based organization (e.g., university college, Indigenous educational institute, hospital) and who has experience with the analysis of BORN data and/or expertise in biostatistics or statistical science.

Notice of Intent

To apply for the BORN Data Access Grant, applicants must first submit a Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) by **September 29, 2025 at 11:59 pm**. The NOI is a mandatory step in the application process. Applicants must then submit the full application by the deadline date.

Application Process

Please take the time to read the application and instructions carefully. The deadline is **October 27, 2025 at 9:00 am**. It is your responsibility to ensure that the application and all supporting documentation are submitted on time. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Please submit your completed application by email to researchgrants@aom.on.ca

Peer Review

Grants will be awarded following peer review by members of the AOM's Midwifery Research Work Group (MRWG) and external peer reviewers. The AOM takes every effort to ensure that the Peer Review Committee represents the diversity of midwives working in Ontario.

External peer reviewers are invited to participate from across Canada and internationally and may not be familiar with specifics of Ontario midwifery. To facilitate a fulsome peer review, please avoid the use of acronyms and describe any Ontario-specific programs.

AI Disclosure

The AOM recognizes that AI has become increasingly useful for researchers. However, applicants are expected to write their research proposals themselves, as a matter of research integrity. Applicants are also expected to ensure that the contents of their application are accurate, and that references and sources are appropriately acknowledged. Applicants will be asked to disclose if and how AI was used in the preparation of their proposal.

Assessment Criteria

Grants will be evaluated on the following criteria:
- Relevance and value of the research to the Ontario midwifery context
- Impact of the research to increase Indigenous sovereignty, racial justice and/or health equity
- Involvement and engagement of communities impacted by the research
- Appropriateness of the research methods, timeline and budget

In awarding funding, the Peer Review Committee strives to support a diversity of projects, institutional affiliations, research teams, and midwifery voices.

Mentored Applicants: Instructions for Submission:

1. Application and Budget Form
2. Mentored Research Proposal *(maximum of 5 pages; additional pages will not be accepted)*
   - References including any tables, charts, figures and graphs may be submitted as an appendix to the research proposal beyond the 5-page limit.
   - Formatting requirements:
     - Document type .doc or .docx
     - 12-point Times New Roman font
     - Single spaced, minimum 2 cm margins
   - File naming instructions: **BORN_DataAccess_GrantProposal_YOUR NAME**
3. Applicant and Mentor's CVs, submitted as one combined PDF

Career Applicants: Instructions for Submission:

1. Application and Budget Form
2. Investigator Contributions Letter *(250 word maximum)*
3. Career Research Proposal *(maximum of 5 pages; additional pages will not be accepted)*
   - References including any tables, charts, figures, and graphs may be submitted as an appendix to the research proposal beyond the 5-page limit.
   - Formatting requirements:
     - Document type .doc or .docx
     - 12-point Times New Roman font
     - Single spaced, minimum 2 cm margins
   - File naming instructions: **BORN_DataAccess_GrantProposal_YOUR NAME**
4. Principal Investigator and all other investigators CVs as one combined PDF

Mentored Research Proposal

Summarize your proposed research plan according to the headings below. Your entire research proposal must not exceed a total of **5 pages as stipulated** and must contain:

- **Introduction**
- **Objectives** *(Describe the research concept as well as how the objectives are reflective of and of value to the Ontario midwifery context)*
- **Methods** *(Provide an overview of the dataset that will be used including the key population, dates, and outcomes; the statistical and analysis plan; the data management plan (mechanisms for ensuring data is kept secure, confidential, and protected); and please outline how you will obtain ethics approval)*
- **Timeline** *(Demonstrate how you will complete this project within 24 months of receiving funding approval)*
- **Importance of the proposed research and expected results** *(Describe the expected outcomes highlighting the significance of the research and how it will advance knowledge and/or application to midwifery. Please describe plans for knowledge translation and dissemination)*
- **Equity considerations** *(Describe how the proposed research plan takes into consideration the potential for increasing racial and/or population health equity. If not applicable, describe why.*
- **Mentor/mentee relationship and mentorship plan** *(1/4 of the 5-page limit must be dedicated to this heading.) Describe:*
    i. *Mentor's research qualifications and background in relation to proposed area of research and/or methodology*
    ii. *Details of the specific mentored support to be provided (i.e. research strategy support, progress monitoring, training in new research methods or platforms, constructive feedback on drafts)*
    iii. *Details regarding the mentor/mentee relationship (i.e., supervision plan, meeting schedule, expectations, and benchmarks)*

Investigator Contribution Cover Letter

When more than one investigator is named in an application, the Principal Investigator must provide a covering letter outlining the unique contribution of each investigator.

Career Research Proposal

Summarize your proposed research plan according to the headings below. Your entire research proposal must not exceed a total of **5 pages as stipulated** and must contain:

- **Introduction**
- **Objectives** (*Describe the research concept as well as how the objectives are reflective of and of value to the Ontario midwifery context*)
- **Methods** (*Provide an overview of the dataset that will be used including the key population, dates, and outcomes; the statistical and analysis plan; the data management plan (mechanisms for ensuring data is kept secure, confidential, and protected); and please outline how you will obtain ethics approval*)
- **Timeline** (*Demonstrate how you will complete this project within 24 months of receiving funding approval*)
- **Importance of the proposed research and expected results** (*Describe the expected outcomes highlighting the significance of the research and how it will advance knowledge and/or its application to midwifery. Please describe plans for knowledge translation and dissemination.*)
- **Equity considerations** (*Describe how the proposed research plan takes into consideration the potential for increasing racial and/or population health equity. If not applicable, describe why.*)