

# Physician Leadership Scholarship Fund

## INITIATIVE BACKGROUND:

The Physician Leadership Scholarship Fund was initiated in 2016 in response to the physicians' need for learning leadership and quality improvement skills. Each year the Specialist Services Committee, in partnership with the Shared Care Committee contributes funding towards leadership training scholarships to cover tuition and travel costs for interested and qualified physicians.

**\$1.4M** | Budget for 2018/19

## OBJECTIVE:

The Physicians Leadership Scholarship Fund is aimed at building physician capacity in leadership and quality improvement skills, which ultimately results in better patient care. It also provides physicians with an incentive to improve access and coordination of care; and provides staff resources to support physicians and initiatives.

## AREAS OF FOCUS:

SSC scholarship funding is available for physicians who are graduates or fellows of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and who are actively practicing in BC. Funding is provided for participation in programs with a core and primary focus on leadership or quality improvement. The training is offered by recognized academic institutions, professional bodies and/or organizations that offer courses with a focus on quality improvement in health care.

## TOP ACHIEVEMENTS:

As of October, 2018, 730 physicians have received approval from the program.

Fiscal Year	Total number of applications approved
2016/17	46 GP 132 SP
2017/18	69 GP 183 SP
<i>Estimated by end of 2018/19</i>	<i>150 GP 250 SP</i>



## BENEFITS:

WHO	HOW
Actively Practicing Specialist Physicians	Physicians can apply for up to \$10,000 each fiscal year in scholarship funding to attend courses or conferences with a core and primary focus on leadership or quality improvement.
Patients	Improvement in physician leadership skills ultimately means better communication with and care for patients.
BC Health Care System	Leadership skills improve physicians' ability to contribute towards better decision making and improved health care system.

# FAQs

## WAY FORWARD:

- SSC and Shared Care will continue to fund and administer this initiative.
- Scholarship data will continue to be monitored on a quarterly basis to ensure usefulness of the courses and scholarship usage.
- SSC will participate in the UBC-Sauder Physician Leadership Program Advisory Committee to ensure the program meets the needs of physicians, Health Authorities and the expectations of the Joint Collaborative Committees.

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**Visit our website:** [sscbc.ca](http://sscbc.ca)

**Initiative webpage:** [sscbc.ca/physician-engagement/leadership-training-scholarship](http://sscbc.ca/physician-engagement/leadership-training-scholarship)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Why should I participate in the Scholarship Program? What do I get out of it?

Participating in the Scholarship Program supports specialists in the development of their leadership and quality improvement skills. The Physician Leadership Scholarship program allows physicians to develop professionally and gain practical skills that can then be applied in their practices and Health Authorities.

### What is the application process?

Interested physicians can download the application form from our website, submit it to the Vice President of Medicine at their respective health authority for endorsement. Endorsed applications are then subject to approval by the JCC Leadership Administrative team.

### Who should I talk to within my Health Authority to endorse my application for leadership training scholarship funding?

You may contact your Department Head or other administrative head within your health authority to obtain Vice President of Medicine's endorsement.

### Why is health authority endorsement of my application required in order to attend a leadership course?

The purpose of the leadership training scholarships is to support specialist physicians who will be undertaking leadership activities approved by the health authority, such as participating or leading health system redesign initiatives, or taking on leadership positions within the health authority (e.g. department head). Health authority endorsement is needed to help identify which specialists are interested in taking on leadership activities and to help ensure that specialists are obtaining the appropriate training.

### Can the scholarship funding be provided to me prior to participating in the leadership course?

No. Eligible expenses and tuition are not payable until the course or conference has been successfully completed. Submission of receipts will be required for reimbursement.

### Decision Making Factors

Not all applications are approved. What the scholarship review group looks for when reviewing an application is that the course or conference has a core and primary focus on leadership or quality improvement skills and/or training. If the course or conference spans over multiple days, the majority of the content must cover topics related to leadership and quality improvement.

For more FAQs, go to the following link:

<http://sscbc.ca/partnership-work/leadership-training-scholarship/faqs>