

## 2023-2024 CEO Clinical Learning Environment Innovation Awards Program

The Cambridge Health Alliance Senior Leadership Team, Center for Professional and Academic Development, and Graduate Medical Education Committee announce the opening of the [2023-2024 CEO Clinical Learning Environment Innovation Awards Program](#)! The program aims to enlist graduate-level trainees in improving the clinical learning environment at CHA. All graduate level trainees in CHA-sponsored health professional education programs are eligible to apply for a grant up to \$2,000 to support initiatives that will improve patient experience of care and staff experience of caring. Previous year's grantees - or applicants who wish to continue a prior project - are eligible to apply for a grant up to \$1,000 to support the change project. A list of [prior projects can be found here](#). However, new initiatives will be prioritized for funding.

In the 2023-2024 program, we are soliciting proposals for change projects in the following areas:

- 1) Improving patient and staff safety
- 2) Nurturing clinician or caregiver engagement and well-being
- 3) Improving the patient and family experience of care
- 4) Improving patient care quality and reducing health disparities
- 5) Cultivating relationships and teamwork

Project selection criteria include:

- Expected contribution to the clinical learning environment for trainees, staff, patients and/or families in one of the five aims above
- Clarity of the proposal including a well-articulated aim, a practical change idea, and a viable measurement strategy that demonstrates how the change leads to improvement
- Feasibility of the project with a scope limited appropriately for available time and resources
- Evidence of engagement with key stakeholders and support from appropriate leaders
- Alignment with [larger CHA institutional performance improvement priorities and efforts](#)
- A plan for sustainability of the effort beyond the end of the academic year

Trainees are encouraged to collaborate across training programs, with multidisciplinary colleagues, and with patients and families. Trainees might consider using a CEO CLER Innovation Award to join an ongoing existing improvement initiative at CHA; reach out to faculty and program directors (or if your program focuses on wellbeing, to a Trainee Experience Advisor) for project ideas. If you would like to know who the Trainee Experience Advisor is for your program, please contact either [cpd@challiance.org](mailto:cpd@challiance.org) or [egaufberg@challiance.org](mailto:egaufberg@challiance.org). Though we recognize that the distinction between research and an improvement project can be nuanced, note that the aim of the proposal should be linked to making institutional change at CHA. Tools and resources related to systems improvement that may be helpful in conceptualizing your project are available on our [CHA PI website](#). Grantees will have the opportunity to profile their work at the CHA Academic Poster Session in spring 2025.

## Deadlines and application instructions

- **Friday, September 8 at 5pm** - Proposals due (late submissions will not be accepted)
  - New Projects: [Submit your proposal here](#).
  - Continuing Projects: [Submit your proposal here](#)
  - Three attachments are required with the proposal: a budget, a learner/mentor agreement contract, and a timeline. Templates for these three attachments are linked here:
    - [Budget template](#)
      - Please note that CEO CLER funds cannot be used to purchase gift cards. Amazon is also not a preferred vendor. Please reach out to Meghan Horan ([cpd@challiance.org](mailto:cpd@challiance.org)) for alternative suggestions.
    - [Learner/mentor agreement](#)
    - [Timeline template](#)
  - The Clinical Learning Environment Innovation Award Selection Committee will review all submitted proposals and provide detailed formative feedback intended to strengthen the project.
- **Week of October 6** - Final notifications sent to applicants and faculty sponsors
  - Formative feedback may be included in acceptance letters
  - The Selection Committee may provisionally approve a project and request that the grantee incorporate and respond to feedback.

Questions? Contact Meghan Horan in the Center for Professional and Academic Development ([cpd@challiance.org](mailto:cpd@challiance.org))