



Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation
Fondation ontarienne de neurotraumatologie

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

Overview Information – ONF Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Program

The Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) is seeking to expand its Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) program by offering start-up support for health care facilities and communities interested in implementing this best practice intervention. The primary goal of the ONF is to prevent and reduce the incidence of Inflicted Infant Head Trauma (also known as Shaken Baby Syndrome) by working with a greater number of partners involved in providing information, education and training to parents and caregivers.

The ONF Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Program is a province-wide primary prevention program based on the Upstate New York Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Program reported by Dias et al. (Pediatrics, 2005). The ONF Phase 1 Program is now being implemented in Sudbury, North Bay, Mississauga, Kingston, Hamilton, and Oshawa. Province-wide support is provided by the Best Start: Ontario's Maternal, Newborn, and Early Child Development Resource Centre and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Background

Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) is a condition that occurs when an infant or young child is shaken violently, usually by a parent or a caregiver (Health Canada, 2002). A baby's demands, especially crying, can become the trigger for a frustrated parent or caregiver to shake a child. King, MacKay and Sirnack (2003) assert that every year at least 40 cases of SBS occur in Canada and that this estimate represents "only the tip of the iceberg" because many cases are not detected. Shaken Baby Syndrome describes the association of brain injuries, subdural hemorrhage or other bleeding within the head, and retinal hemorrhages; it usually causes some alteration in the level of consciousness ranging from irritability to coma. Although controversy exists whether shaking is enough to cause severe injury without actually striking blows to the head, SBS is still considered one of the most lethal forms of child abuse.

Recent Canadian data on children hospitalized for Shaken Baby Syndrome show that 19% died, 50% had lasting neurological, visual impairment and/or other health effects and only 22% appeared well at discharge (Health Canada, 2002; King et al., 2003). Even among those who seem to recover uneventfully, a significant number suffer subtle learning disorders and other cognitive difficulties (Dias, 2002, 2004) often requiring long term multidisciplinary medical care, involvement of child welfare authorities, adaptive housing, specialized education and vocational training (American Pediatric Association, 2001). Therefore, it is clear that costs of treating victims of shaken baby syndrome far exceed the costs of implementing a shaken baby syndrome prevention program. Along these lines the Canadian Joint Statement on Shaken Baby Syndrome recommends that Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention programs must be evaluated to determine their effectiveness (Health Canada, 2002).

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to broaden and evaluate the implementation of the Upstate New York Shaken Baby Prevention Program, described as the best practice in Volpe and Lewko (2004).

The major strength of The Upstate New York Shaken Baby Prevention Program lies in its simplicity and ease of implementation. The educational program is short and easy to introduce to parents – making it straightforward for very busy neonatal nurses and educators to put into practice (Diaz, 2001; 2002). Another strength of the program is its focus on both parents: close attention being paid to educating fathers and father figures, who in fact perpetrate 60 percent of shaken baby cases.

The Upstate New York Shaken Baby Prevention Program has achieved a 42% reduction of Shaken Baby Syndrome incidence in New York State. To date it is the only SBS prevention program that has scientifically demonstrated an actual large-scale comparative reduction of the incidence of SBS. This program has now achieved its sixth year of incidence reduction in New York State and has had widespread use throughout North America.

The implementation of the SBS Prevention Program offers the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation a valuable opportunity to fulfill its mandate and elaborate its unique approach to strategic grant making characterized by employment of evidence, use of best practices, implementation evaluation, and project stewardship.

Objectives of Phase II of the Project

- To provide optimal support and prevention information to a greater cohort of parents and caregivers.
- To develop leaders in health care and community-based prevention of inflicted infant head trauma across Ontario.
- To create 'centers of excellence' that will act as a resource and central sites for other health care settings and communities in their region.

Funding Information

A start-up grant of \$10,000 is available to eligible communities to assist with initial implementation costs (i.e. human resources, training, expert advice, educational resources).

Who should apply?

Any community and health care settings interested in implementing the ONF best practice intervention to prevent and reduce the incidence of inflicted infant head traumas. Sign-off and approval of the application by the health care facilities' Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director (or designate) is required and/or other officers in community based organizations.

What are the criteria to apply?

Eligible health care facilities/communities must demonstrate an ability to provide temporary or permanent staff dedicated to the implementation and coordination of the Shaken Baby Syndrome program. These individual(s) will manage changes to health care facilities' policies and forms, provide training for staff, and in some cases, provide educational training to new parents and caregivers. Each new site (successful applicant) is expected to link with a Phase I site and comply with the evaluation process established by the University of Toronto Research Coordination Unit.

Health care facilities/communities that have previously received funding and resources as part of the ONF Shaken Baby Syndrome program (Phase I) *are not eligible* for the current expansion.

When is the deadline for submission?

The deadline for submission is **March 2, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.**. Assessment of eligibility will take place immediately following the application deadline and offer letters will be sent to selected candidates by **March 30, 2009**.

How to Apply

**** Requests for Applications must be submitted electronically from the ONF website. ****

Important Points about navigating the electronic form.

The form is a typical web-based application. The following are instructions for using it:

- Do not exit without saving, or what has been entered will be lost. If you do wish to save and return later, you will be provided with an account number which has a password for your use only.
- Do not use the "back" key, or the system will exit you. When wishing to move from one page to another, use the "next" button at the bottom of the screen or click on the page numbers at the top.
- Before submitting your form be certain that you have completed all requirements. Do not 'submit' your application without the required attachments. You have the option to save and return later with a password.

Requests for Applications must be submitted electronically in their entirety. Incomplete submissions or misdirected submissions will not be accepted. No part of any Request for Application submission will be accepted by fax, email or courier, unless requested by ONF.

If electronic submission is not possible, please contact Carol-Anne Sullivan (carol-anne@onf.org) immediately and alternative arrangements will be made.

**The deadline for receipt of electronic submissions is
Monday March 2, 2009 by 4:00 p.m.**

Information on the link to the electronic form is found on the ONF website at www.onf.org along with this Request for Applications. Please click on the Prevention tab, then click on the 'Funding Opportunities' menu item to search for this initiative.

Please include an application narrative that is no more than 3 pages. Please briefly describe the following:

- a) Your organization/community, including past or current initiatives to prevent inflicted infant head traumas, incidence, etc;
- b) Brief bios of current or potential Shaken Baby Syndrome champions and what, if any, previous training or experience in preventing inflicted infant head traumas they may have;
- c) If applicable, any groups you intend on collaborating with to implement your comprehensive SBS program;

- d) Internal and/or external financial support that may be available to your SBS program;
- e) Any other relevant organizational/community information related to the implementation of the SBS program.
- f) How the funds will be used

Process and timelines

Release of announcement	February 10, 2009
Submission of project descriptions from applicants	March 2, 2009 by 4:00 p.m.
Notification of status from ONF as to whether an award is approved for funding	March 30, 2009
A funding agreement will be issued. Once this is signed and returned to ONF, payment will be issued.	Following confirmation
Applicants submit a 3-5 page final report on the SBS implementation project, plus a summary (abstract) for the ONF website.	Within 8 months of receiving funds

ONF Contact Person

For any queries or clarifications, please contact H el ene Gagn e by email at helene@onf.org or by telephone at (416) 422-2228, extension 206.