

# Funding Models for Food Prescription Programs

## Call for Applications: Graduate Research Assistant Sept 2024

The Guelph Lab is recruiting for a 6-month graduate research assistant position investigating funding models for food prescription programs in Canada.

- This position pays \$23 - \$28 per hour, subject to skills and experience of the successful candidate
- 10-15hrs per week for 6 months
- The role is planned to start in late October 2024. The exact starting date will be determined with the successful candidate, with the option to start in Jan 2025.

## Apply

Please submit 1) a cover letter (max 1 page) and 2) your resume to Sam Laban. [slaban@uoguelph.ca](mailto:slaban@uoguelph.ca) using file names "Your Full Name\_ Food Prescription GRA \_ Resume"

Deadline for submission: 9:00 am, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024



## About the Project


The Guelph Lab and the Arrell Food Institute are working together to support food prescription programs in Guelph. Food prescription programs are a novel way to address food insecurity by providing people with weekly access to food. They recognize the connections between mental and physical health and food security, allowing healthcare providers to “prescribe” access to good food to support patients’ overall health and nutrition.

There is growing interest in these programs across Canada – UofG’s own food prescription program, run in collaboration with the SEED, will support more than 100 students this year. Building on existing research about the different ways these programs operate, this project will explore potential funding models for food prescription programs.

Currently, most programs in Canada are funded through time-limited grants but this project will investigate alternatives, including the potential for private and public health benefit plans to provide sustained funding for large numbers of people. The results of the project will be shared with local and national food prescription programs through a report and/or workshops, presentations, and webinars.

## About the Role

In this role, the Graduate Research Assistant will:

- Work with other members of the team to design and deliver all aspects of the project
  - Gather, compile, and annotate literature related to the project and its objectives
  - Conduct key informant interviews with, for example, healthcare providers, funders, insurers and civil servants
  - Review and compare public and private health benefit plans in the US and Canada
  - Conduct both qualitative and quantitative data analysis, including coding, content analysis, thematic analysis, data cleaning
  - Develop recommendations for practitioners based on the research
  - Prepare knowledge mobilization materials such as a project reports, with the opportunity to share results via presentations and webinars
  - Complete other tasks associated with the project as requested by the supervisor
- 



## Required Skills and Experience

- Must be a graduate student enrolled at the University of Guelph
- MA or PhD students in a relevant field, such as economics, political science, public policy, healthcare, etc.
- Experience with mixed methods research design – including, conducting interviews, policy analysis, and gathering, compiling, and annotating literature and synthesizing complex information
- Experience with qualitative and quantitative data analysis
- Experience mobilizing research to support practitioners – e.g., policy briefs, presentations
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Outstanding written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills
- A passion for food, food security, and/or health and wellbeing is an asset

At the University of Guelph, fostering a culture of inclusion is an institutional imperative. We invite and encourage applications from all qualified individuals, including from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in employment, who may contribute to further diversification of our institution. At the Guelph Lab, we are working to create a working and learning culture that is informed by and committed to anti-oppressive practices.