



THE RNFOO 2021 CONNIE CLERICI NURSE ENTREPRENEUR AWARD (CCNEA)

An entrepreneur is: “one who organizes, manages and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise.” (Merriam-Webster)

The Connie Clerici Nurse Entrepreneur Award (CCNEA) was conceived and funded by Connie Clerici, Founder and Executive Chair of the Board of Closing the Gap, a home care agency in Ontario and a nurse entrepreneur herself.

This \$25,000.00 award will be given to a nurse or nurses who is/are either:

- aspiring entrepreneurs who have applied for support to enable them to establish their business OR
- career entrepreneurs who need support to expand their products or services in an existing business

Both categories of applicants must be nurses in a business that directly or indirectly delivers or improves health services and health care to Ontarians. Applications from groups will be accepted.

In addition to the financial award, the winner will be offered the opportunity to work with a nurse entrepreneur mentor.

Requirements

Applicants for the CCNEA must be an **RN, RPN, or NP** currently registered in good standing with the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) and living or working in Ontario. **Applicant(s) may be an aspiring or established entrepreneur(s) whose business is focused on providing or supporting quality health care to Ontarians.** Applicant(s) cannot be an employee or consultant in a business managed or owned by others.

Selection Committees

There will be two selection committees, one for each step of the selection process. The first will be composed of nurse entrepreneurs who are Founding Donors of the Nurse Innovator Award (NIA). This committee will assess the Step One applications and select a short list of no more than 3 candidates to go forward to the second step.

The second selection committee will be composed of non-nurse entrepreneurs and/or supporters of nurse entrepreneurship. This committee will view the successful

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applications from Step One and have an opportunity to interview/ask questions/discuss the application with each of the shortlisted candidates and recommend the first, second and third place candidates (if appropriate) to the NIA Committee.

The Application Process

The application system opens on **March 22nd and closes on May 29th, 2021.**

STEP 1: Submission of application

Applicants must provide:

i) **basic contact information**, including name, mailing address, phone number, email address and CNO Registration number.

ii) a **proposal** (3 page maximum) that **must** include:

- a description of how the business, program and/or service supports, provides or enables quality health care to Ontarians;
- the purpose of the business, program and/or service;
- how the business/program or service meets a current gap or unmet need and how that need was determined;
- the goals, outcomes, timelines for the business, program and/or service; and
- a plan for how the funds will be specifically used.

iii) a **current resume** (2–page maximum) that focuses on information relevant to the focus of the application.

iv) two **supporting letters** from people who know the applicant and who can speak to their potential and ability to achieve the stated goal(s).

The basic contact information, proposal, resume and supporting letters must be sent to The CCNEA Selection committee c/o g.donner@utoronto.ca no later than 6 PM, May 29, 2021.

STEP 2: The Pitch

The applicants selected to go forward from Step 1 will be notified no later than August 15th and will be invited to “sell” their idea in an interview (no longer than 30 minutes) with a small group of entrepreneurs from outside the nursing community but with an interest in the health and/or social care system. The short-listed applicants will be asked to:

- do a brief (no longer than 10 minutes) presentation outlining their proposal and how it contributes to the health of Ontarians;

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- respond to questions and engage in a discussion (no longer than 20 minutes) about their proposal with the Step 2 selection committee.

The award winner(s) will be asked to provide a **short self-made video** (5 minutes or less) that describes the business/program or service and how the award will be used. The winner will be announced and the video shown at the November 2021 NIA Reception

The two-step application process will be overseen by the NIA Committee of RNFOO

NOTE: Should there be a large number of well qualified applicants the committees may recommend two awards (not to exceed a total of \$25,000.00) be awarded.

.It is expected that winner(s) will meet the timelines described in their application. Winner(s) will commit to providing a written **report** one year following receipt of the award describing how the funds have been used to support the applicants' business goals; providing a business, program and/or service that supports, provides or enables quality healthcare to Ontarians.

RNFOO CCNEA funding must be acknowledged in any publication or presentation that result from the award.

This award is currently a one-time award.