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**VISIONS FOR CHANGE:   
POLICY CHALLENGE 2021/2022**

AGE-WELL NCE and the AGE-WELL National Innovation Hub: Advancing Policies and Practices in Technology and Aging (APPTA) are inviting Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) to participate in the 2021 Visions for Change: Policy Challenge.

This is a unique opportunity for 3 selected HQP to work closely with policy experts and learn first-hand how to align research ideas with policy priorities to become recommendations at a provincial, territorial, or national level. Each participant will prepare a 10-page policy report in response to their selected challenge question and will have the opportunity to deliver a final presentation to government decision-makers in February 2022.

AGE-WELL & APPTA will accept applications to participate in this exciting experiential education program in July and will inform selected participants in August. Each participant will be given several opportunities to learn directly from policy stakeholders and will receive travel and accommodation costs to the APPTA Policy Stakeholder Meeting in February 2022 (*COVID-19 travel restrictions pending*). Should travel continue to be a concern with the ongoing pandemic, a cash reward with be given in lieu of travel. A program schedule can be found below.

For your chance to be part of this experiential educational opportunity, please apply by:

* Selecting one of the four challenge questions
* Completing the application form found below by describing what steps you would take to answer the question and outlining any experience you have working with government (e.g. answering questions from government using research evidence or presenting to government). **Please note, no policy experience is required.** \*
* Attaching a plain language writing sample (5 pages or less)

**To apply, please complete the application form by July 23, 2021 at 11:59 pm ET and send all accompanying documents to the program lead, Heather Higgins, at hhiggins@appta.ca**

Challenge questions were submitted by different governments across the country as priorities in their healthy aging portfolios and as related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The challenge questions are:

* The pandemic has caused a great deal of mental health and addictions issues, often related to feelings of isolation (especially in those who live alone). How can government rapidly increase access to mental health and addictions supports for older adults?
* What alternative housing/care models to long-term care exist that are effective in supporting older adults to remain in their communities?
* How can government leverage community-based models to expand palliative care in rural regions?
* How have Canadian provinces and territories implemented consumer directed care models (or self-managed care) into their home care programs?

**POLICY CHALLENGE PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

*Please note that the program schedule is subject to change and is likely to undergo adjustments as the global pandemic continues to evolve.*

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| June 23rd, 2021 | Applications open to the Policy Challenge |
| July 23rd, 2021 | Closing date for applications to the Policy Challenge |
| August 4th, 2021 | Selection/ announcement of Policy Challenge winners |
| September 2021 | Meeting 1: Introduction to the program |
| October 2021 | Meeting 2: Virtual workshop with government stakeholders |
| October, 2021 | Policy mentorship opportunity |
| November 2021 | Meeting 3: Translating research findings to a policy audience |
| November 17th, 2021 | Policy Challenge report initial outline due |
| December 2021 | Meeting 4: Feedback on report outlines and Q&A |
| January 7th, 2022 | First draft of Policy Challenge report due |
| January 2022 | Meeting 4: Feedback on first draft |
| February 4th, 2022 | Draft PowerPoint & second draft of policy report due |
| February 2022 | Meeting 5: Participant will present a practice presentation on their report for feedback |
| DATE TBD | Final presentation to government decision-makers & final report due |
| March 2022 | Meeting 6: Evaluation survey of program experience, collection of qualitative feedback, delivery of program completion certificate. |

**National Policy Challenge**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Part 1. General Information**

Applicant Name:

Educational Institution:

Department:

Academic Supervisor:

Academic Level:

**Part 2. Selection of Challenge Question**

*Please select one of the four challenge questions below.*

The pandemic has caused a great deal of mental health and addictions issues, often related to feelings of isolation (especially in those who live alone). How can government rapidly increase access to mental health and addictions supports for older adults?

What alternative housing/care models to long-term care exist that are effective in supporting older adults to remain in their communities?

How can government leverage community-based models to expand palliative care in rural regions?

How have Canadian provinces and territories implemented consumer directed care models (or self-managed care) into their home care programs?

**Part 3. Application**

Please describe the approach you would take in developing the question selected (max. 350 words).

Please outline any previous experience you have, if any, in working with government organizations or undertaking policy research (max. 200 words).

**Part 4. Writing Sample**

*Please attach as a separate document a plain language writing sample (max. 5 pages).*

Plain language writing sample attached.