

# **Goals/Objectives of KT ICE funding support**

S. Michelle Driedger

Department of Geography

University of Ottawa

# Background

- Grant submitted to CIHR RFA April 2004: "Evaluating the use of maps as tools for knowledge transfer and exchange in public health: The Ontario Early Years plan"
- Reviewers comments: proposal would benefit from preliminary data

# KT ICE Funding

1. To conduct pilot project to strengthen application for resubmission to CIHR
2. To have a research assistant to help with teaching/administrative duties (course preparation, management, etc.)

# Current work load

- Teach 4 courses; normal load is 5 in Faculty of Arts
- TAs only given to courses with enrolment >50 students
- Acting Director of Environmental Studies Program → possibly made permanent in July 2004.

# Pilot Project Background

- Ontario Early Years Plan mandate
  - To improve child developmental health over the lifecourse
  - To produce maps of community programs and services aimed at target pop. (parents with children <5 years) to assist with program planning and policymaking

# Pilot Project

## Goals/Objectives (brief)

- To document the use of maps for KT and evidence-based decision making at public health level
- To identify:
  - Perceived impact of maps in decision-making; and
  - Facilitators/barriers to use of new tools/technology in KT

# Pilot Study population

- Administrators and Coordinators of Early Years Centres – aim to target 19 Centres

# Pilot Research Phases

1. To construct and implement survey phase of project to collect data on the computing hardware and software available in the Early Years Centres
2. To begin key informant interviews with Early Years Coordinators

# Survey phase – 3 sections

1. Current computing hardware and software used in Centre
2. Measure perceptions of current mapping tools within Centres (e.g. commenting on design, layout, ease of use, etc).
3. Background information on Coordinators and Centres

# Qualitative Phase: n=5 – 10 respondents

- Factors that facilitate/impede adoption/use of new tools
- Contextual factors
- Who uses the maps; who is intended audience
- Perceived effectiveness of maps and/or new tools

# Outcome of Pilot Phase

- Are maps perceived as being useful for KT?
- Is a new tool required that better meets user needs?
  - If so, how can it best be addressed?
  - If not, what is needed to facilitate KT?

# Benefits to KT ICE Team

- Adds to our understanding of KT by looking at public health
- Project will use OMRU → potential to identify strengths or weaknesses
- Policy-relevant → findings have potential to lead to QI in health care at public health level
- Team is interdisciplinary

# Deliverables

- Strengthened application for Collaborative Health Research Projects
- To secure protected research time for grant writing, participation on projects, paper writing

# Caveat

- Applying for InterFaculty Collaborative Research Grant → if funded, I would be submitting a new proposal to use KT funds and/or use the KT funding as supplement

**Questions?**