



CIHR IRSC

Canadian Institutes of Health Research Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

Spring 2026 Project Grant Competition

Applicant Q&A Webinar

A Vision for a Healthier Future / Une vision pour un avenir en santé



Canadian Institutes of Health Research Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

Canada

Session Outline



Updates, Reminders and General Information



Resources



Contact Information



Question and Answer Period



Project Grant Spring 2026 Timelines

Key Dates

Registration Deadline	February 4, 2026
Application Deadline	March 4, 2026
Anticipated Notice of Recommendation (NOR)	July 8, 2026
Anticipated Notice of Decision (NOD)	July 22, 2026
Funding Start Date	October 1, 2026

REMINDER: Formatting Requirements

Format
Template Link



CIHR has simplified its attachment formatting requirements. The following apply to all applicant-prepared attachments and must be followed to ensure readability and fairness.

Font Use a minimum of 12 point, Times New Roman font in black type. Do not use condensed fonts. Superscript and subscript text are allowable. You may use other fonts and font sizes for text in tables, charts, figures, graphs and legends only, as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%

Line Spacing Use a minimum of single line space. DO not use narrow line spacing.

Character spacing Use normal/standard character spacing. Do not use condensed character spacing.

Margins Insert a minimum margin of **2 cm (0.79 inch)** around all pages. Margins may include page numbers in the header or footer (number only) but must other wise be empty and contain no text or images.

Page Limit Observe page limitations. Additional pages may NOT be added unless specified.

Page Size Use only letter size (21.59 X 27.94 cm / 8.5" x 11"), white paper/background for all attachments. Photo-reduce the supporting documents if the originals are larger than 21.59 X 27.94 cm / 8.5" X 11".

Attachment format Attachments must be uploaded in PDF format (unprotected). It is important to confirm that the final PDF document compiles with the formatting requirements.
The size of the attached document(s) cannot exceed 30 MB per document.

CIHR reserves the right to withdraw your application if it does not meet these requirements

REMINDER: Research Security at CIHR

Research security refers to the actions that safeguard the integrity of research domestically and internationally, with a particular emphasis on protecting against threats to national and economic security.

The Government of Canada, granting agencies, and research community have a **shared responsibility** to:

- Protect the integrity of our research ecosystem; and,
- Do not lead to discrimination against or profiling of any member of the community.

Two directives have been implemented:

- The National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships ([NSGRP](#)); and
- The Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern ([STRAC](#))



REMINDER: Research Security at CIHR

National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships ([NSGRP](#))

The **NSGRP** applies when the research proposal involves one or more partner organizations from the [private sector](#).

The directive only applies to the PJT competition, since Fall 2024 competition.

A mandatory question under **Enter Proposal Information - Details** will ask a Yes/No screening question at the Full Application stage.

“Does the proposal involve one or more partner organizations from the private sector?”

If the answer is “Yes”, and that the proposal involves one or more partner organizations from the private sector, a mandatory [Risk Assessment form](#) (RAF) must be uploaded for the application (one per application).

REMINDER: Research Security at CIHR

Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern ([STRAC](#))

STRAC applies when the research activities aim to **advance** any of the listed [sensitive technology research area](#) (STRA). It currently applies to most CIHR grant FOs launched (minus a [few exceptions](#)).

A task: **Identify Sensitive Technology Areas** will ask a Yes/No screening question at the Full Application stage.

“Will the proposed research activities, supported by this grant, advance any of the listed sensitive technology research areas?”

If the answer is “Yes”, and the proposed research activities aim to **advance** any of the [listed STRAs](#), a mandatory [attestation form](#) from [each researcher with a named role](#) in the application, must be uploaded, attesting that none of the individuals involved in activities supported by the grant are affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support, from a university, research institute or laboratory named on the [Named Research Organization](#) (NRO) list.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Clinical Trials Policy Guide - Requirements

- CIHR is a signatory to the World Health Organization's [Joint Statement on Public Disclosure of Results from Clinical Trials](#) (“WHO Joint Statement”) requiring all clinical trials to be registered and the results disclosed publicly in a timely manner.
- Nominated Principal Investigators receiving CIHR grant funds for conducting clinical trials on or after January 1, 2022 must comply with the requirements outlined in the [CIHR Policy Guide](#) to remain eligible for new CIHR funding.
- CIHR monitors policy compliance annually and [publicly reports](#) aggregate data showing the degree of compliance with the policy requirements.

Update – Changes to applications for clinical trials (CT) and randomized controlled trials (RCT)

- Nominated Principal Applicants (NPAs) receiving grants for the conduct of clinical trials and randomized controlled trials are required to comply with all reporting requirements implemented by CIHR. This may include, but is not limited to, mid-term reports on the progress of the trial. Report templates will be provided by CIHR no later than 6 months in advance of their due date.
- Applicants submitting proposals for clinical trials and randomized controlled trials are strongly encouraged to leverage mechanisms that support efficient trial start-up. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Use of streamlined research ethics boards processes which minimize the numbers of reviews for multi-site trials (e.g., [CanReview](#), established intra- or inter-jurisdictional streamlining initiatives), where available.
 - Use of inter-institutional agreements which minimize timelines for negotiation (e.g., [ACT Contracts](#), established intra-jurisdictional processes), where available.
 - Use of participant-focused informed consent approaches for clinical trials (e.g., [core consent templates](#)), where available.
 - When responding to the question “Does this application contain a clinical trial?” in your application, the definition of clinical trial can be accessed by clicking on the hyperlink within the question. This takes you to the CIHR glossary of funding-related terms.

Reminder: Updates to randomized controlled trials and commercialization

- **Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT)** – the RCT headings and evaluation criteria were changed as of Fall 2024. [Learn more about the RCT headings and evaluation criteria](#)
- **Commercialization (CMZ)** – applications submitted to the CMZ peer review committee must follow the prescribed structure of three main headings and address sub-bullets (as applicable). [Learn more about the CMZ headings and evaluation criteria](#)

REMINDER: Completing CVs

All participants, except for collaborators, are required to submit a CV that is completed via the Canadian Common CV (CCV) interface.

Applicant Roles	Canadian Academic Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Users • Non-academics • Indigenous Organizations • International Applicants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA) • Principal Applicant (PA) • Co-Applicant (CO) 	CIHR Biosketch CV	CIHR Biosketch CV or Applicant Profile CV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborator 	<u>Cannot and must not submit a CV</u>	

REMINDER: Research Summary and Proposal

- Your research proposal must include all crucial information (**including tables, charts, figures and photographs – must be legible when viewed at 100%**) that a reviewer will need to read in order to assess your application. **It must not include any hyperlinks.**
- The following page limits for the research proposal will apply:
 - English – 10 pages; French – 12 pages.
- The research **summary** of applications submitted in French will **be translated and added to the application** as part of our commitment to continuous improvements to the peer review process.

*** Note that any pages over the page limit identified above will be removed with no further notification to the Nominated Principal Applicant.**

REMINDER: Sex and Gender Based Analysis (SGBA)

As an applicant, you must demonstrate how sex and/or gender has been integrated into the:

- Research design,
- Methods,
- Analysis and interpretation, and/or
- Dissemination of findings.

Please review the information on [How to integrate sex and gender in research](#) available on the CIHR website.

Thus, if sex and/or gender considerations are applicable to the research you are proposing, they must be integrated throughout your research proposal and not just discussed solely in this sex and/or gender textbox.

The Nominated Principal Applicant must complete one of the [sex- and gender-based analysis training modules](#) and upload the Certificate of Completion in **Task 8 – Attach Other Application Materials**.

REMINDER: Summary of Progress

The scope of the Summary of Progress (2 pages in English or 2.5 pages in French) includes:

- Progress / productivity / impact
- ECRs
- Impacts on progress of research (e.g., leave, family responsibilities, pandemic, etc.)
- Budget requested in relation to overall funding held currently or pending

The Summary of Progress is not:

- a summary or a history of your application
- a duplicate of CV content
- extra pages for your research proposal

Your Summary of Progress **must not** include any tables, figures, graphs and hyperlinks

REMINDER: San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)

As applicants, you are encouraged to:

- think broadly when choosing contributions and impacts to highlight;
- include indicators of **quality** (e.g., distinctions-based, meaningful and culturally safe health research) and **impact** (e.g., influence on policy and practice, health and societal outcomes); and
- provide context to support peer reviewers in assessing your track record if relevant.



Where can you outline these in your application?

- Most significant contributions
- Summary of Progress

REMINDER: Response to Previous Reviews

If you are resubmitting an unsuccessful application, you may provide a response to previous reviewers' comments.

Attachment 1: Response to Previous Reviews

- Maximum of 2 pages (English) or 2.5 pages (French).
- If you exceed the maximum page limit, CIHR will remove any additional pages without notifying you further.
- You do not have to respond to all the comments in the reviews—only those that are relevant to your revised application.

Attachment 2: Previous Reviews

- You **must** include **all** the reviews and Scientific Officer (SO) Notes (if available) received in that round of submission.
- If you do not attach the previous reviews and SO Notes (if available) from the round of submission to which you are responding, **CIHR will remove your response to previous reviews without notifying you further.**
- The reviews to which you are responding may only stem from a previous Project Grant competition.

REMINDER: Budget Information

The budget justification text boxes in ResearchNet allow for up to 3500 characters each so there is ample space to fully justify your budget items.

- Budget should be an **accurate assessment of the funding needed to complete the research.**
- Verify that the budget items are **eligible, reasonable and justifiable expenses.**
- Check for mathematical errors and that all amounts match with each other in the different sections of the application.

Please ensure to enter the requested amount first and then provide justification to ensure your work is properly saved.

Reminder: Appendices

Task 8 – Attach Other Application Materials

You **must** attach:

- A certificate of completion for the sex- and gender-based analysis training modules for the NPA.
- NSGRP Risk assessment form, if applicable.
- Letter of support regarding a pending appointment, if applicable.
- Letter of community support from indigenous partner(s), if applicable.
- Employer attestation for a paid international researcher, if applicable.

You **may** attach:

- Letters of collaboration to the NPA

Not Accepted:

- Patient Information Sheet (for RCT applications)
- Publications
- Questionnaires, surveys, and consent forms
- Supplementary tables, charts, figures, and photographs
- Cost Quotations
- CVs
- Any other documents

REMINDER: Priority Announcements

Priority Announcements (PAs) are additional sources of potential funding for applications submitted to the Project Grant competition.

It is important that within the application to the Project Grant competition, applicants **must consent to the sharing of information in order to be considered** for Priority Announcements.

For more information on Priority Announcement, please visit the [Priority Announcements and the Project Grant - Frequently Asked Questions webpage](#).

GENERAL INFORMATION: Expanded Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Self-Identification Questionnaire

- Mandatory ResearchNet task for all participants at time of application
 - Opt-out: “I prefer not to answer”
 - Change responses at any time
- CIHR will equalize Project Grant applications from NPAs who self-identify as a racialized person or who self-identify as a person with a disability
 - Uses responses provided to questions five (5) and/or seven (7) in the Self-ID questionnaire
- About [Equalization in Project Grant](#)



GENERAL INFORMATION: Manage Access task (optional)

This optional task allows a Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA) to delegate access to their application to a maximum of five [5] individuals.

Individuals with delegated access:

- Can support the completion of eSubmission tasks in collaboration with others
- Require their own ResearchNet account
- Do not require a CIHR PIN

- Cannot access or view any participant Self-Identification Questionnaire Information
- Cannot access NPA Current/Completed or Inactive activities in which they are not delegated
- Cannot submit the application

GENERAL INFORMATION: Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary (TIR) Peer Review Committee

The TIR committee ensures the agencies have a robust mechanism to review and support interdisciplinary research.

Project Grant applicants who wish for their application to be considered for review in the TIR committee, which utilizes a **unique peer review process**:

- **must** indicate **the TIR committee** as their **first suggested committee at registration**
- **must** clearly justify, in the committee choice justification, **how the proposal advances disciplines across the mandate area of at least two funding agencies and how it integrates interdisciplinary approaches to achieve the project goals**

For more information, please consult the following websites: [Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee](#) landing page, the [Frequently Asked Questions](#), and [TAIPR Peer Review Guide](#).

Resources

Acfas and its French-language research assistance service (SARF)

What is it?

SARF is a French-language research assistance service administered by Acfas. It aims to offer support support and assist researchers from Canada's francophone minority communities in preparing **funding applications submitted in French to the Tri-Council**. Its services include:

- *Strategic review and detailed assessment of funding applications submitted in French to the **CIHR Project Grant competition** and to the **CIHR Health Research Training Award Programs***
- *Information webinars on funding programs*
- *External peer review service (for research grant applications)*

Who is it for?

Faculty members and graduate students working in **francophone minority settings** in Canada (outside Quebec)

How to use it?

SARF's services are offered to researchers by Acfas through **partnerships agreements** with post-secondary educational institutions

Partner institutions



For further inquiries, please contact:

Thierry Drapeau, PhD
Director

thierry.drapeau@acfas.ca

514-849-0045, ext 236

<https://www.acfas.ca/communaute/sarf>

Resources – Reference Materials

These are your core resources for submitting an application to the Project Grant competition.

- [Project Grant Program](#)
- [Funding Opportunity](#)
- [Priority Announcement Funding Opportunity](#)
- [Project Grant FAQ](#)
- [Priority Announcements FAQ](#)
- [Registration Instructions](#)
- [Application Instructions](#)
- [Project Grant Program: Application Process](#)
- [Peer Review Committee Mandates](#)
- [Peer Review Manual](#)
- [CCV CIHR Biosketch – Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [CCV Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Applicant Profile CV](#)
- [Acceptable Application Formats and PDF Attachments](#)
- [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#)

Resources – Reference Materials

These reference materials cover topics related to the Project Grant competition.

Sex and Gender Based Analysis:

- [Sex, Gender and Health Research](#)
- [How to integrate sex and gender into research](#)
- [Sex and Gender Champions](#)
- [Impacts of integrating sex and gender in research](#)
- [Institute of Gender and Health online courses](#)

Articles suggested by the Institute of Gender and Health as examples of integration of sex and gender considerations and analysis:

- [Different immune cells mediate mechanical pain hypersensitivity in male and female mice](#)
- [The influence of sex and gender domains on COVID-19 cases and mortality](#)
- [Sex, Gender, and Cardiovascular Health in Canadian and Austrian Populations](#)
- [A Composite Measure of Gender and Its Association With Risk Factors in Patients With Premature Acute Coronary Syndrome](#)

Resources – San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA):

For Applicants:

- [Applicant Resource: How to highlight your research contributions and impacts](#)
- [Examples of contributions and impacts by research pillar](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

General:

- [DORA's Resource Library](#)
- [Reimagining academic assessment: stories of innovation and change](#)
- [Rethinking Research Assessment: Building Blocks for Impact](#)

Resources – Reference & Learning Materials

These reference materials cover topics related to the Project Grant competition.

- Equity and Diversity Questionnaire: [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Self-Identification Questionnaire](#)
- Integrated Knowledge Translation (iKT): [Knowledge Translation Planning](#)
- Global Health: [Global health research](#)
- Excellence in peer review: [Bias in peer review](#)

Learning materials can be accessed at the [Learning for Applicants](#) page. Topics relevant to the Project Grant competition can be found under the following headings:

- Project Grant
- Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis (SGBA) and Health Research
- Equity and Diversity Questionnaire

Resources – Guidance on Research Security

Research Security at CIHR:

- [Research Security at CIHR](#), including CIHR specific [FAQs](#)

Tri-Agency Guidance on Research Security:

- [Tri-Agency Guidance on the STRAC Policy](#)
- [Tri-Agency Guidance on the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships \(NSGRP\)](#)

Canada's Research Security Centre, hosted by Public Safety Canada:

- [Connect with a Regional Advisor](#)

Government of Canada:

- [Safeguarding your research portal](#)

Contact Information

Questions regarding the Project Grant Competition can be directed to the CIHR Contact Centre:



Telephone: 613-954-1968

Toll Free: 1-888-603-4178

Email: support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

Website: [Project Grant Program](#)

Hours: Mon-Fri, 7AM-8PM Eastern (except holidays)

Question and Answer Session

- We invite you to join the discussion.
- Please ask your question in the Question-and-Answer feature of the meeting.
- You can also “like” a question already asked to emphasize it.





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