Q&A Strategic Catalyst Opportunities

If you are interested in applying and require further information, please review the frequently asked question section below, view the webinar recording, or contact onechildeverychild@ucalgary.ca.

Project Timelines

1. How soon after submitting the Intent to Apply would the applicant be notified whether they will be invited to submit a full application?

The One Child Every Child team will contact applicants invited to submit a full application within 10 days of the Intent to Apply deadline.

2. When do the projects start?

We intend to send out Notice of Award letters early February, 2024, with anticipated project start dates of March 1, 2024. Projects must be set up before the end of March, 2024. Though our goal is to have funds available for use as soon as possible following award notification, it could take several weeks until project set-up is complete. The One Child Every Child team will work with the NPA to set up a project under the appropriate institution and department.

Team Composition

1. What is the difference between NPAs, PAs, Co-As, and Collaborators and who is eligible to apply in these roles?

The Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA) is responsible for the direction of the project and the coordination of proposed activities, along with the co-principal applicants (if applicable). The NPA assumes the administrative and financial responsibility for the award.

Principal Applicants (PAs) and Co-Applicants (Co-As) share responsibility with the NPA for the direction of activities and may have access to award funds. The main difference between a PA and Co-A is their level of contribution: PAs work with the NPA to direct the project AND contribute to its execution, while co-applicants contribute to the execution of the project. Team members can be practitioners, policy-makers, educators, trainees, decision-makers, health care administrators, Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers, patients, community leaders, and individuals working for a community organization. Principal Applicants must be considered independent researchers*. Postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows, research associates, and those in similar positions, are not eligible to apply as NPAs or PAs, but they may apply as Co-As**.
Collaborators contribute to the execution of research activities but do not have direct access to grant funds. Collaborators do not need to be affiliated with a Canadian academic institution; they may be affiliated with another Canadian or international organization. Any individual who will contribute to the project is eligible to be a collaborator. Collaborators may include those affiliated with a federal, provincial, territorial or municipal government department or a for-profit organization. Students, postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows, research associates and those in similar positions are eligible to participate as a collaborator**.

An independent researcher:
Engages in research-related activities that are not under the direction of another individual AND
Has an academic appointment that:
Is in effect by the start date of the award,
Allows the individual to pursue the proposed research project, to engage in independent research for the duration of the funding, to supervise trainees (if applicable) and to publish research results,
AND
Obliges the individual to comply with institutional policies on conduct of research, supervision of trainees (if applicable) and employment conditions of staff paid with award funding

**If a trainee is listed as an applicant on a Strategic Catalyst Award application without their research supervisor, indication of support must be provided (e.g. correspondence from their research supervisor or clinical program director outlining support for the trainee to apply in the role specified on the application).

2. Besides the university affiliation requirement, do Nominated Principal Applicants also need to have an academic appointment to be considered? Or is this open to Adjunct appointments/Research Assistant Professor/other ECR appointments?

Researchers with an adjunct academic appointment that allows them to hold independent research project funding at one of the four Alberta institutions (UCalgary, UofA, UofL, Athabasca U) are eligible to apply as a Nominated Principal Applicant. The start date of this appointment needs to be in effect by the start date of the award.

3. Do you have to have research partners outside of your university to be considered?

a. For the ‘Branch’ category (proposals requesting up to $200,000), yes, teams must be either multi-institutional or include a community or other non-academic partner
b. For the ‘Seedling’ category (proposals requesting up to $50,000), teams are encouraged (though not required) to include members from across organizations*
*in this context, “organization” can refer to a parent academic institution (i.e. at the university or college level), a non-profit or governmental agency, a public sector

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1 Definitions of team member roles and independent researchers were adapted from the New Frontiers in Research Fund competition.
organization (e.g. a local school board or health clinic), or a for-profit company (as long as the Principal Applicants are not major stakeholders in the company)

4. **Will the catalyst competition information be provided to collaborators internationally (i.e. Africa); are they able to participate?**

We will not be formally distributing Strategic Catalyst grant information beyond the lead and partner institutions for One Child Every Child (UCalgary, UofA, UofL, Athabasca U) in this round of competition. You are welcome to distribute information related to this opportunity to potential co-applicants and collaborators in other countries, as appropriate.

5. **If an application reflects collaboration with industry – finding innovative solutions that address healthcare in the environment (construction/technology-related), can this application go forward?**

As long as the proposal meets the criteria outlined in the guidelines (i.e. the proposed research aligns with at least one theme and one accelerator described in One Child Every Child and the team is led by an independent researcher from one of the lead or partner institutions for One Child Every Child [UCalgary, UofA, UofL, Athabasca U]), it may be selected to go forward. Alignment with One Child Every Child priorities and team composition will be the primary considerations in inviting teams to submit a full application.

**Funding and Alignment**

1. **Can funding be used outside the four institutions listed?**

   Strategic Catalyst funding must be held at one of the four identified institutions in Alberta and the Nominated Principal Applicant, who will administer the catalyst funding, must have a faculty appointment at one of these institutions. However, use of funds externally is allowable and will be evaluated within the context of individual proposals, given that teams may include additional Principal Applicants, Co-applicants, and Collaborators from outside of the four listed institutions. In fact, national and global collaboration is encouraged to advance global research excellence in child health.

2. **Can I re-purpose a grant that I recently submitted to a tri-council agency to submit as a Strategic Catalyst Opportunity?**

   No. These awards are intended to kick-start new ideas, not as a replacement for tri-council funding. Nor are these awards meant to incrementally expand an ongoing research project. Catalyst awards should advance research to become competitive for other peer-reviewed funding sources, such as the tri-council agencies.
3. We are submitting a major tri-council grant in November that we believe aligns well with the One Child Every Child Catalyst grant. Therefore, we intend to submit a Strategic Catalyst application that would dovetail this larger tri-council grant, expanding some of the sections to fit with the intent of the Strategic Catalyst grant. If we were successful in both grants, monies would be put toward different aspects of the larger project. Do we have to disclose this information and justify why we need additional funds?

Since there is no guarantee that the tri-council grant will be funded, the Strategic Catalyst grant would need to be a standalone project that does not depend on the success of the tri-council proposal. If there are any dependencies on what is proposed in the tri-council grant, it is recommended that you wait to apply to a future Strategic Catalyst competition after the tri-council grant has been awarded. You should explain the relationship of the Strategic Catalyst grant to the tri-council grant and show how the Strategic Catalyst grant leverages the tri-council grant.

4. How should these awards be acknowledged in presentations and in print?

Award acknowledgement depends on the source of the award. One Child Every Child staff will provide specific acknowledgement requirements for each project.

5. Can seedling grants deliver smaller-scale outcomes that feed into future projects that require further funding (beyond $200K) to take off?

Yes, seedling grants can be used to generate results that could be used for future funding proposals. In fact, potential for future sustainability in the form of external grant funding is a desired outcome for the Strategic Catalyst grants, regardless of the category (Seedling or Branch).

6. Does the scope of the funding reach beyond Alberta, in the event that the principal applicant has partners outside Alberta and/or Canada?

Yes, One Child Every Child has a mandate to foster national and international research excellence in child health.

7. After hearing about ways to compensate, support and engage Indigenous peoples in the research projects - would there be mechanisms at the university to pay patient partners/public advisors on the research projects as well?

Yes, each institution may have specific guidelines and policies in place around compensation of partners from outside of your academic institution and we recommend you connect with the appropriate department or unit at your institution. If you have specific questions, you may also reach out to onechildeverychild@ucalgary.ca.
8. *One of the EDI-focused populations was girls/women, but would there be consideration for an application with a focus on boys/men with the ultimate goal of impacting One Child Every Child?*

Proposals must be aligned to one or more theme and one or more accelerator of One Child Every Child. A proposal could certainly focus on boys’ health and men’s health in the context of the family (e.g. fathers’ wellbeing as a determinant of child health outcomes), as long as the alignment to Better Beginnings, Precision Health and Wellness, and/or Vulnerable to Thriving is made clear.

9. *Will the research team need to provide a report at the end of the award?*

Yes, reporting is required for all awards, reflecting the expected outcomes and metrics outlined in the award application. Specific reporting expectations will be communicated when successful applicants are notified. Project leads may be invited to present the aims, progress and results of Strategic Catalyst projects at relevant knowledge mobilization events.