

Grant Reviewer Checklist

Responsible and Inclusive Research Assessment | Equitable Pathways

One Child Every Child (OCEC) | University of Calgary



OCEC Equitable Pathways Grant Reviewer Checklist

1 Research Quality and Feasibility

Is the research question significant, clear, and well-defined?

Consider whether the question addresses an important gap in child health or equity research, and how outputs and impact are assessed and logically framed within OCEC's themes.

Are the methods appropriate, rigorous, ethical, and feasible?

Assess whether the design, data collection, and analysis are appropriate, and whether ethical standards including Indigenous governance or OCAP® principles are observed.

Is the timeline and proposed plan realistic?

Examine whether project phases, milestones, and deliverables are achievable given scope, team capacity, and funding duration.

Does the proposal demonstrate understanding of community/population needs?

Is the research supported by the community/population?

Evaluate evidence of meaningful community engagement with children, families, and communities from each EDG.

2 Equity and Community Engagement

Does the project address inequities affecting children and youth from EDGs?

Consider whether the research explicitly targets disparities, systemic barriers, or social determinants.

Are Indigenous and/or other minoritized communities meaningfully engaged?

Assess depth and reciprocity of partnerships, including co-design and culturally safe practices.

Is the research interdisciplinary/interprofessional and context-sensitive?

Examine integration of multiple perspectives, disciplines, or knowledge systems.

Is there potential for lasting, meaningful impact?

Consider whether outcomes can lead to sustainable change in child health, policy, practice, or community capacity.

3 Evidence of Past Contributions

Does the applicant demonstrate diverse, high-quality contributions?

Look for evidence beyond publications: policy reports, community outputs, creative works, software, or datasets.

Are contributions well-contextualized in the narrative CV/MS?

Evaluate whether the applicant clearly explains the significance, role, and impact of each contribution.

Is there evidence of leadership, mentorship, or research culture contributions?

Consider the applicant's role in building teams, supporting trainees, fostering inclusive environments.

4 Societal and Community Impact

 Are impact pathways clearly articulated?

Assess whether findings will be translated in real-world contexts.

 Will the project influence policy, practice, or service delivery?

Look for engagement with policymakers and organizations to ensure tangible outcomes.

 Are knowledge mobilization strategies accessible and actionable?

Evaluate plans for culturally appropriate, understandable, and useful dissemination.

5 Responsible, Ethical, and Inclusive Practices

 Are IDEA and social justice principles embedded?

Does the project consider structural inequities, accessibility, and ethical inclusion?

 Are open science, transparency, and data justice principles addressed?

Consider whether the proposal respects OCAP® and Indigenous data sovereignty.

 Is community engagement meaningful, reciprocal, and culturally safe?

Assess depth of relationships, co-ownership of knowledge, and culturally appropriate strategies.

6 Potential for Success and Team Capacity

 Does the team have the skills, partnerships, and resources needed?

Examine team expertise, complementary skills, and resources.

 Are risks identified and mitigated?

Evaluate whether risks are anticipated with contingency plans.

 Will the project strengthen UCalgary/OCEC research culture?

Consider whether the project builds capacity and fosters collaboration.



Reviewer Conduct Reminder

- Apply DORA-aligned principles consistently.
- Avoid journal prestige, impact factors, and citation counts as proxies for excellence.
- Provide constructive, evidence-based, and bias-aware evaluations.
- Declare conflicts of interest and recuse if necessary.
- Document rationales clearly.
- Ensure fairness across career stages, disciplines, and research pathways.
- Respect Indigenous knowledge, methodologies, and governance.