2019 Exploration Competition

How to prepare a Notification of Intent to Apply

July 2019
Presentation overview

- Program description
- Program updates
- Roles and Eligibility
- Subject matter eligibility
- Review process
- Competition timeline
- Notification of Intent to Apply (NOI)
- Selecting external reviewers
- Convergence Portal live demo
- Q&A Session
New Frontiers in Research Fund Exploration Stream

• Objective:
  – Generate opportunities to conduct high-risk, high-reward and interdisciplinary research
  – Support research that pushes the boundaries of what is funded through the agencies

• Minimum of 100 awards
  – Maximum of $125,000 per year for up to 2 years (includes indirect costs of up to 25% of direct costs)
New for the 2019 competition

• Open to all researchers as the nominated principal investigator!
  – Protected funding for Early Career Researchers (ECRs)

• Minimum of 2 team members (including Nominated PI)

• 3 Application Stages
  – Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) – *Not adjudicated*
  – Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI) – *Adjudicated*
  – Application – By invitation, based on LOI – *Adjudicated*

* Evaluation Matrices are available on our website
Roles and Eligibility

• Nominated Principal Investigator
  – Independent researcher with primary affiliation at a Canadian Institution holding full institutional eligibility with one of the agencies as of March 31, 2020

• Co-Principal Investigator
  – Independent researcher
  – May not be affiliated with a government or for-profit organization

* Please consult our Funding Opportunity for more information
Roles and Eligibility

• Co-Applicants
  – Includes, but is not limited to, independant researcher, policy-makers, Indigenous Elders, community leaders, Indigenous knowledge keeper, or individuals working for a charity
  – Have access to funds

• Collaborators
  – Any individual that contributes to the project and is not supervised by a team member
  – No access to funds
Subject matter eligibility

• Must be interdisciplinary
  – Include elements from at least 2 disciplines (group level of Canadian Research and Development Classification)

• Push the boundaries of what can be funded through the agencies, according to their mandates and existing programs.
Review process - NOI

- Not adjudicated

- Purpose
  - Informing committee composition
  - Identifying external reviewers
Review process - LOI

Adjudicated by the Multidisciplinary Review Panel
- Interdisciplinarity/Fit to program (Pass/Fail)
- High Risk (50%)
- High Reward (50%)

Purpose
- Identify applications that don’t meet the objectives of the program
- Manage application volume to:
  - Reduce the burden on applicants
  - Reduce the burden on committee members
  - Reduce the number of external reviewers required
  - Reduce the burden on Research Administrators
Review process – Application

- Applications by invitation only
- Evaluated by external reviewers
- Adjudicated by the Multidisciplinary Review Panel
  - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Pass/Fail)
  - High Risk (40%)
  - High Reward (40%)
  - Feasibility (20%)
## Competition timeline

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<thead>
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<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
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<tr>
<td>Competition launch and Convergence Portal opens (July 3rd)</td>
<td>Submission of Notification of Intent to apply (NOI) (due Aug. 7th)</td>
<td>Submission of Letter of Intent to apply (LOI) (due Sep. 4th)</td>
<td>LOI stage results and invitations to submit an Application (Oct. 31st)</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Dec - March</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>March</td>
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<td>Submission of Application (due Dec. 10th)</td>
<td>External reviews and committee assessment</td>
<td>Multidisciplinary review panel meeting</td>
<td>Release of Notices of Decision and start of awards (by March 31st)</td>
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Notification of Intent to Apply

• Mandatory stage
• Deadline: August 7th
**Check with your RGO for internal deadlines**
• Main Components:
  – Application title, fields of research, keywords*
  – Summary of proposal (2,500 characters)*
  – Completed profiles of at least two team members*
  – List of collaborators
  – Suggested external reviewers and exclusions

* Locked in at this stage for the remainder of the competition
Selecting External Reviewers

• Be mindful of conflicts of interest
• Identify appropriate expertise
  – Ability to review with confidence (incl. language)
  – Experts familiar with the various disciplinary approaches in the interdisciplinary project
• Consider diversity in your selection
  – Canadian, international
  – Private, government, public sectors
  – Gender
  – Under-represented groups
  – Established, mid career, early career researchers
Collection of information

• Collected for the purpose of program performance management

• Self-ID data collected as part of the user profile is **NOT** shared with reviewers (or agency staff)

Please consult [Data Collection policy](#) if you would like more details
How to use the Convergence Portal

Terms and conditions • Avis
## Resources

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<tr>
<th>NFRF contact</th>
<th><a href="mailto:NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca">NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Deadlines</td>
<td>Your institution’s Research Grants Office / RGO</td>
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<td>NFRF website</td>
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<td>Funding Opportunity</td>
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<td>On-line Services Helpdesk</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:websupport@chairs-chaires.gc.ca">websupport@chairs-chaires.gc.ca</a>  Telephone: 613-995-4273</td>
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