2020 Transformation Competition

Letter of Intent to Apply

February 2020

Outline

- Transformation stream
- Subject matter eligibility
- Project team eligibility and roles
- Competition stages and timeline
- LOI requirements
- LOI review process
- Convergence Portal demonstration (applicants)

Information for RGOs

- RGO role
- Convergence Portal demonstration (RGOs)

Transformation Stream Objective

- To support large-scale, Canadian-led interdisciplinary research projects that address a major challenge, and have the potential to realize real and lasting change
- The challenge the research addresses may be:
 - fundamental, leading to a scientific breakthrough
 - applied, with a social, economic, environmental or health impact
- Projects are expected to be world-leading, and to draw on global research expertise when relevant

Approach

- Transformation grants will support projects that:
 - tackle a well-defined problem or challenge
 - propose a novel world-leading approach
 - are interdisciplinary
 - have the potential to be transformative
- Transformative research is defined as having the potential to create a significant and real change or impact—a noticeable leap or tangible breakthrough rather than an incremental advance

Value and Duration

Value:

Subject Matter Eligibility

- Must propose a world-leading interdisciplinary approach
- Must have the potential to have a significant impact in addressing a well-defined challenge
- Must include elements from at least two disciplines and cross the mandates of at least two of the federal research funding agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC)

Project Team Eligibility

- National, international and cross-sector collaborations are encouraged to ensure:
 - that the most appropriate individuals and/or organizations are involved
 - that team composition reflects best practices in equity, diversity and inclusion

Roles

Roles

LOI Requirements

 The NPI must have submitted an NOI to be eligible to create and submit an LOI

LOI deadline for submission to NFRF:

April 15, 2020

Check with your RGO for internal deadlines

LOI Requirements

- 1. Profiles in the Convergence Portal for any additional members of the research team
 - Members identified at the NOI stage are expected to remain on the team

2. LOI content

 Includes all information submitted in the NOI, updated as necessary, as well as sections outlined in the next slides

Collaborators

 Changes to the list of collaborators (additions or deletions)

Suggested Reviewers

- Suggested reviewers (minimum of 20):
 - have the expertise to review and comment on your application
 - have the ability to review your application in the language in which it is written
 - are not in a conflict of interest with any member of the team
- Suggest a diverse cross-section of reviewers:
 - Canadian and international
 - early-career and established
 - women and other under-represented groups
 - from academic and non-academic institutions
- At least 10 suggested reviewers must be from outside Canada
- Indicate any individuals who should <u>not</u> be asked to review the proposal

Gender-Based Analysis Plus

- Indicate if GBA+/SGBA considerations are appropriate and if they have been integrated into the proposed research
- Note that they must be integrated if considered appropriate or you will be unable to submit your application
- Provide an explanation if GBA+/SGBA considerations are not deemed appropriate for the proposed research

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

- The research team must demonstrate a commitment to EDI, demonstrating diversity by meaningfully engaging members of the four designated groups
- Personal information about any individual must not be included
- Provide:
 - A short description of the EDI context of your team (max. characters: 2500)
 - Best practices implemented (max. characters: 250 each element) and the relevance, approach and expected impact (max. characters: 2500 each element) for:
 - Team composition and recruitment process
 - Training and development opportunities
 - Inclusion

(Feasibility criterion)

Related to: Project design EDI / ECR Personal Criterion

Related to:

Information

(Convergence Profile)

Early Career Researchers

Research Proposal

- Maximum 10 pages, including diagrams and illustrations
- Should address:
 - novelty of approach
 - interdisciplinarity
 - feasibility
 - anticipated transformation/change/impact
- Ensure you use language that can be understood by a multidisciplinary committee

References

- No page limit
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to include only the main references required to support the proposal

Instructions for Attachments

- Each supporting document must be uploaded as a separate attachment following the instructions for attachments
- It is the responsibility of the NPI to verify the page lengths and formatting of all uploaded attachments
- If a submitted application contains one or more attachments that do not comply with the required page length or formatting, the application may be withdrawn

LOI Review Process

- Each LOI will be evaluated by the multidisciplinary/multisectoral review panel according to the following selection criteria:
 - interdisciplinarity (pass/fail)
 - EDI (pass/fail)
 - high risk (20%)
 - high reward (60%)
 - feasibility (20%)

Interdisciplinarity

 Transformation projects must integrate different disciplinary approaches to bring a novel perspective to address the research challenge

Proposals must:

- explain how the disciplinary perspectives, methodologies and techniques will be integrated
- demonstrate that the team has the required expertise to execute the interdisciplinary approach
- explain the need for an interdisciplinary approach and/or the added value of the approach to the research problem

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Early Career Researchers

- To ensure the greatest innovation and success, EDI is a core element of the NFRF program
- Teams must demonstrate a commitment to EDI by meaningfully engaging members of underrepresented groups, including the four designated groups
- Teams should also consider diversity as it applies to career stages, sectors and institutions
- The meaningful integration of all members of the project team is required, with concrete measures to ensure this

High Risk

- High risk refers to the novelty of the proposed approach to the challenge
- Proposals must explain:
 - why the project is novel, as it relates to the latest methods, concepts, information and techniques
 - how the approach builds on and benefits from expertise and resources across Canada and/or internationally
 - what makes the approach "world-leading"
 - why the approach is expected to lead to real change

High Reward

 High reward is defined as the potential to create a significant and real change or impact—to be transformative

Proposals must:

- explain the anticipated change or impact that is likely to result and its significance
- outline the major short-, medium- and long-term changes that are expected, the likelihood of their achievement, and who or what will be affected by the changes

Feasibility

- Feasibility covers the plan and the ability to execute the activities
- At the LOI stage, the evaluation will focus only on the feasibility of the proposed approach to the problem or challenge at a relatively high level
- At the full application stage, the external reviewers and the multidisciplinary review panel will evaluate the project's feasibility in more detail

LOI Review Process

Using the Matrices

For each criterion, reviewers are asked to consider relevant elements, including, but not limited to, those in the evaluation matrices.

Interdisciplinarity, like EDI/ECR, is scored pass or fail.

The evaluation matrices for all five

LOI Review Process

Members' ratings for high risk, high reward

Convergence Portal Demonstration: Applicants

Budget Table

INFORMATION FOR RGOS

 Use the "Research Administrator" button to access your institution's applications

RGOs can:

- view LOIs from NPIs at their institution (expired, in progress and submitted)
- forward submitted LOIs to the agency
- return submitted LOIs to the NPI
- create a PDF of a single LOI
- create a PDF of multiple LOIs (a bulk download)

Before forwarding an application to the

- By forwarding the application, you will also be certifying, on behalf of the institution, that the NPI:
 - is affiliated with the institution or organization
 - has the necessary time and resources to carry out the activity
 - will email <u>NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca</u> of any changes during the tenure of the grant, including changes in the composition of the partnership, such as the addition of new coprincipal investigators, co-applicants or collaborators

Convergence Portal Demonstration: RGOs

Resources