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%)
Submission of Notification of Intent to apply (NOI) (due Aug. 7th)

Competition launch and Convergence Portal opens (July 3rd)

August

Submission of Letter of Intent to apply (LOI) (due Sep. 4th)

September

LOI stage results and invitations to submit an Application (Oct. 31st)

October

December

Submission of Application (due Dec.10th)

Dec - March

External reviews and committee assessment

March

Multidisciplinary review panel meeting

March

Release of Notices of Decision and start of awards (by March 31st)
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
# Resources

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<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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